

## Judicial Council of California

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 · Sacramento, California 95814-4717

Telephone 916-323-3121 · Fax 916-323-4347

PATRICIA GUERRERO

*Chief Justice of California  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

MICHELLE CURRAN

*Administrative Director*

June 25, 2026

Hon. Bob Archuleta  
Member of the Senate, District 30  
1021 O Street, Suite 6620  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 1157 (Archuleta), as amended June 22, 2026 – Remove opposition.

Dear Senator Archuleta:

The Judicial Council is pleased to inform you that it has removed its opposition to Senate Bill 1157 (Archuleta), based on the June 22, 2026 amendments that remove the requirement that the Judicial Council develop guidelines for less restrictive programs (LRP) for youth committed to secure youth treatment facility. As amended, the bill now requires specified LRPs to submit information to the probation department to be presented to the court and requires the court to consider this information. This structure will ensure that the judicial branch is responsible for judicial rather than regulatory tasks and can use its discretion to determine which LRPs are appropriate for each youth under the court's jurisdiction.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council has removed its opposition to SB 1157 because it no longer directs the judicial branch to take on executive branch duties.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

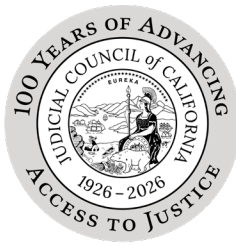
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Kenny".

Tracy Kenny  
Supervising Attorney  
Judicial Council Governmental Affairs

TK/lmm

cc: Matt Fleming, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California



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May 19, 2026

Hon. Bob Archuleta  
Member of the Senate, District 30  
1021 O Street, Suite 6620  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 1157 (Archuleta), as amended May 14, 2026 – Oppose unless amended.

Dear Senator Archuleta:

The Judicial Council regrets to inform you that it is opposed to Senate Bill 1157 (Archuleta), which would require the Judicial Council, by July 1, 2028, to develop and adopt guidelines to assist the court in determining whether a particular less restrictive program is an appropriate placement for a ward unless it is amended to place responsibility for development of guidelines on a non-judicial branch entity. The bill would require the guidelines to direct the court to consider specified topics, including: whether and what type of insurance coverage a program is required to possess; the training a program's staff has received; whether a residential program has conducted a criminal background check of prospective employees; whether a program has demonstrated ability to address the risk needs of wards being transferred to the less restrictive program; whether a program has provided proof of notice to the city and county in which it operates; and whether a program utilizing residential facilities meets state and local zoning and land use requirements for residential facilities.

These kinds of guidelines are regulatory in nature and thus not appropriate for development by the judicial branch. The council notes that the bill could be amended to either direct an executive branch agency to take on this task or to establish the legislature's preferred criteria in statute for the court to apply. The judicial branch does not have the expertise to set guidelines on issues such as insurance, training, or the appropriate review of criminal background checks. Moreover, the development of such guidelines, which requires making policy judgments, and weighing the risks and benefits of different standards is not appropriately a judicial branch function. While the council appreciates the recent amendments to allow for an additional six months to develop the guidelines, the extra time does not address the principled objection to the judicial branch creating

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standards for residential and other less restrictive programs. Ensuring that the judicial branch is an independent, separate, and co-equal branch of state government is one of the key strategic goals of the council. Legislation directing the judicial branch to establish program standards and guidelines inappropriately requires the judicial branch to engage in policy areas that should be undertaken by an executive branch entity or enacted by the Legislature directly.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council opposes SB 1157 unless amended to establish a means to ensure that less restrictive programs meet certain minimum standards without requiring the council to undertake the primary work on developing the standards.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,



Tracy Kenny  
Supervising Attorney  
Judicial Council Governmental Affairs

TK/lmm

cc: Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Michelle Curran, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California