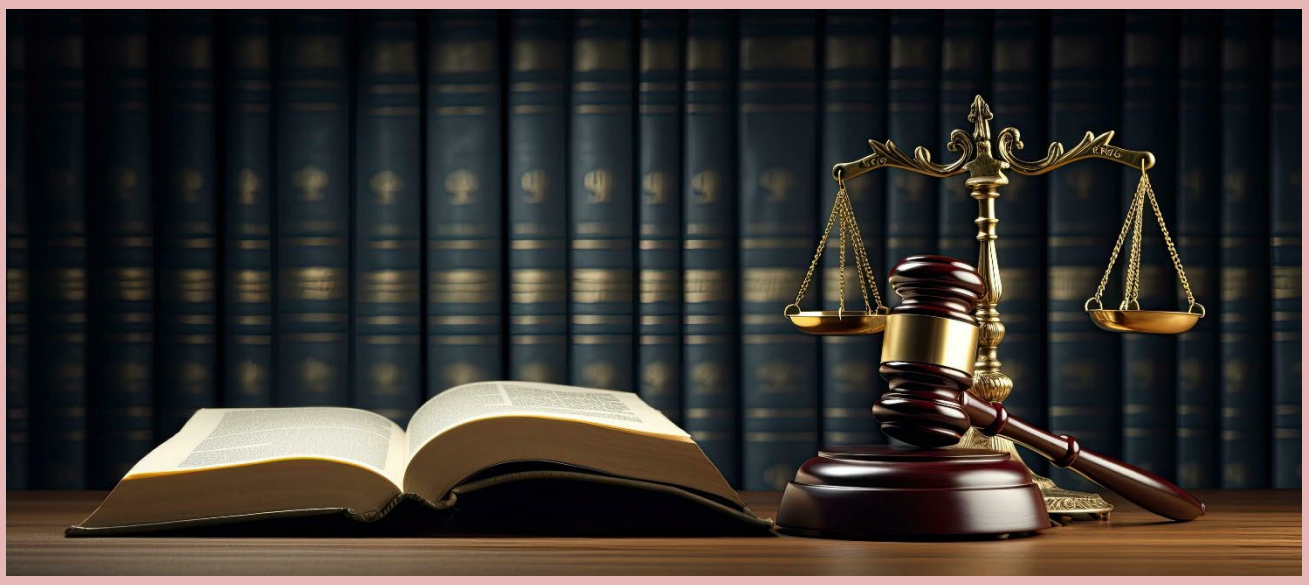
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

2025
Legislative Summary



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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly Public Safety Committee

2025 Legislative Bill Summary

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Abuse and Neglect

AB-653 (Lackey) - Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches.

Under existing law, the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires defined mandated reporters to report to certain authorities whenever they discover in their professional capacity a child the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

AB 653 (Lackey) adds to the definition of mandated reporter individuals "employed as a talent agent, talent manager, or talent coach, who provides services to a minor."

Status: Chapter 379, Statutes of 2025

AB-741 (Ransom) - Department of Justice: child abuse reporting.

The Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) was created in 1965 as a centralized system for collecting reports of suspected child abuse. This is not an index of people who have been convicted of any crime; it is an index of persons against whom reports of child abuse or neglect have been made, investigated, and determined by the reporting agency (local welfare departments and law enforcement) to meet the requirements for inclusion, as specified. In California, local Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs receive notices from the Department of Justice (DOJ), the FBI, and the Department of Motor Vehicles of any changes in the background screening results of any volunteer (CASA and CASA Board Member) or staff member. Often called the “rap back,” these notices allow the CASA program to immediately investigate the suitability of any volunteer or staff member to continue working with children. However, currently, local programs do not receive such notices from the CACI. In fact, existing law actually restricts the receipt of subsequent responses for CACI information to the California Department of Social Services only, thus leaving CASA programs without this safeguard.

AB 741 authorizes the DOJ to monitor the CACI and notify the CASA program if a child abuse investigation record involving a CASA employee or volunteer is added to the CACI, and allows the DOJ to increase the fee for a CASA candidate's state and federal criminal history background check, as specified, sufficient to cover the cost of processing subsequent child abuse investigation notifications from the CACI.

According to the author, "The safety, protection, and well-being of children in foster care is paramount, and thus it is imperative to extend subsequent notices for CACI information to CASA programs in California. Primarily, this change will enhance child safety, but it will also reduce the financial and administrative burdens on the 44 local

CASA programs serving California courts. By taking these steps, we can further strengthen the state's commitment to safeguarding these most vulnerable individuals: the children and youth in California's foster care system."

Status: Chapter 619, Statutes of 2025

SB-848 (Pérez) - Pupil safety: school employee misconduct: child abuse prevention.

Under existing law, each school district and county office of education is responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive. Existing law requires that the plan include, among other things, child abuse reporting procedures. SB 848 (Perez) requires a comprehensive school plan to instead include child abuse or neglect reporting procedures and would additionally require a comprehensive school safety plan to include procedures specifically designed to address the supervision and protection of children from child abuse or neglect and sex offenses.

Existing law requires school district and county office of education comprehensive school safety plans to include assessing school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions.
SB 848 requires school district and county office of education comprehensive school safety plans to instead include assessing all crime, not just school crime, committed on school campuses and at school-related functions.

Existing law authorizes a principal or their designee, when they verify through local law enforcement officials that a report has been filed of the occurrence of a violent crime on the schoolsite of an elementary or secondary school at which they are the principal, to send to each pupil’s parent or legal guardian and each school employee a written notice of the occurrence and general nature of the crime. SB 848 revises and expands the definition of “violent crime” for these purposes and would authorize a principal or their designee to also provide that same notification for sex offenses.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other things, establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials, certificates, and permits. It requires the commission to deny an application for the issuance of a credential or for the renewal of a credential, or to revoke a credential, for any person convicted of a sex offense. Existing law prohibits the governing board of a school district from employing or retaining in employment persons in public school service who have been convicted, or who have been convicted following a plea of nolo contendere to charges, of any sex offense, and prescribes numerous provisions, including required actions, relating to suspensions, dismissals, and leaves of absences of public school

employees charged or convicted of a sex offense. SB 848 expands the definition of “sex offense” for those purposes.

In addition to any other prohibition or provision, existing law prohibits a person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony from being hired by a school district or charter school in a position requiring certification qualifications or supervising positions requiring certification qualifications, and prohibits a school district or charter school from retaining in employment a current certificated employee who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony, and who is a temporary employee, a substitute employee, or a probationary employee serving before March 15 of the employee’s second probationary year. SB 848 applies those same prohibitions to persons who have been convicted of sex offenses.

Existing law, the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, establishes procedures for the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. The act requires certain professionals, including teachers, instructional aides, and classified employees, known as “mandated reporters,” to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect to a local law enforcement agency or a county welfare or probation department, as specified. Failure by a mandated reporter to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor. The act provides that volunteers, except for volunteers of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children, except a volunteer of a Court Appointed Special Advocate program, are not mandated reporters.

SB 848 revises and recasts those provisions as they relate to the educational environment to instead make (A) employees, certain volunteers, and governing board or body members of a school district, county office of education, charter school, or private school, (B) employees, certain volunteers, and board members of public and private contractors to a school district, county office of education, charter school, state special school or diagnostic center operated by the department, or private school whose duties require contact or supervision of pupils at that school district, county office of education, charter school, state special school or diagnostic center operated by the department, or private school, and (C) employees and certain volunteers assigned to a state special school or diagnostic center operated by the State Department of Education, all mandated reporters under the act.

Status: Chapter 460, Statutes of 2025

Background Checks

AB-354 (Michelle Rodriguez) - Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to, among other functions, certify the eligibility of those persons appointed as peace officers throughout the state. Existing law authorizes POST, as specified, to decertify a certified peace officer for engaging in serious misconduct, as specified.

Existing law also requires any agency that employs peace officers to, within 10 days, notify POST of specified occurrences including any complaint, charge, or allegation of serious misconduct by a peace officer employed by that agency and the final disposition of any investigation into that complaint, charge, or allegation, regardless of the discipline actually imposed. Existing law provides that each law enforcement agency shall be responsible for the completion of an investigation into any allegation of serious misconduct by an officer, regardless of the officer's employment status. Existing law establishes the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) within the Department of Justice to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information between law enforcement agencies in the state.

AB 354 (M. Rodriguez) requires POST employees whose job duties require access to criminal offender record information, state summary criminal history information, or information obtained from CLETS to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check, as specified. It also authorizes POST to access information derived from CLETS if POST determines that the information is needed in the course of the commission's duties related to investigating peace officer misconduct and an agency's compliance with regulatory requirements.

Status: Chapter 32, Statutes of 2025

AB-741 (Ransom) - Department of Justice: child abuse reporting.

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Child Abuse

AB-653 (Lackey) - Child abuse: mandated reporters: talent agents, managers, and coaches.

Under existing law, the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act requires defined mandated reporters to report to certain authorities whenever they discover in their professional capacity a child the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

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Status: Chapter 619, Statutes of 2025

AB-1094 (Bains) - Crimes: torture of a minor: parole.

Penal Code section 206 is the torture statute and states any person, with the intent to cause cruel or extreme pain and suffering, for the purpose of revenge, extortion, persuasion, or for any sadistic purpose, inflicts great bodily injury. Penal Code section 206.1, sets the sentence for torture as “life.” Life, without any further specification, means a minimum of seven years and a maximum term of natural life in state prison. The penalty for felony child abuse resulting in traumatic injury is two, four, or six years in state prison.

AB 1094 prohibits a person imprisoned for committing torture on or after January 1, 2026 from being eligible for parole until the person has served at least 10 years, if the defendant was an adult at the time of the crime and the victim was 14 years of age or younger and in the care or custody of the defendant at the time of the crime.

Status: Chapter 631, Statutes of 2025

Controlled Substances

AB-82 (Ward) - Health care: legally protected health care activity.

A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions. California's PDMP is known as CURES, maintained by DOJ to assist health care practitioners in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing, furnishing, and dispensing of controlled substances, and law enforcement and regulatory agencies in controlling diversion and abuse of controlled substances. Licensed health care practitioners and pharmacists may access information in CURES only for patients under their care. Regulatory agency officials and law enforcement officials may access CURES information only to assist the efforts of their agencies to control the diversion and resultant abuse of controlled substances.

DOJ is authorized to enter into an agreement with an entity operating an interstate data sharing hub, or an agency operating a PDMP in another state, for purposes of interstate data sharing of PDMP information. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(1).) Data obtained from CURES may be provided to authorized users of another state's PDMP, if the entity operating the interstate data sharing hub, and the PDMP of that state, have entered into an agreement with the department for interstate data sharing of PDMP information. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(2).) An agreement entered into by DOJ for the purposes of interstate data sharing of PDMP information must ensure that all access to data obtained from CURES as well as the handling of data contained within CURES comply with California law, including regulations, and meet the same patient privacy, audit, and data security standards employed and required for direct access to CURES. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(3).)

Of relevance to this bill, testosterone is a Schedule III controlled substance and subject to the requirements of the CURES statutes. Mifepristone is not scheduled. This bill requires DOJ, on or before January 1, 2027, to remove existing records of prescriptions for the dispensing of testosterone or mifepristone created or maintained prior to January 1, 2026.

In addition, in recognition that there may be other drugs not yet on a controlled substances list but which may impact sensitive, legally-protected health care, this bill authorizes DOJ, in consultation with the California Health and Human Services Agency, health care providers, and clinicians, to add medications for legally protected health care activity to the list of medications prohibited from being reported to DOJ, CURES, or a contracted prescription data processing vendor.

Current law prohibits a person from posting on the internet or social media, with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving

violence or a threat of violence against a reproductive health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address, the personal information or image of a reproductive health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address. (Gov. Code, § 6218.01, subd. (a)(1).) The conduct is punishable as a wobbler, with imprisonment of either up to one year in a county jail, or pursuant to criminal justice realignment, by a fine of up to $10,000 per violation, or by both. (Gov. Code, § 6218.01, subd. (a)(2).) A violation that leads to the bodily injury of a reproductive covered health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address, is a felony punishable in the county jail under realignment, by a fine of up to $50,000, or by both. (Gov. Code, § 6218.01, subd. (a)(3).) This bill expands that crime to give those same protections to gender affirming health care services patients, providers, or assistants.

This bill also sets $0 bail for an individual arrested in connection with regards to offenses arising out of legally protected gender-affirming health care.

Status: Chapter 679, Statutes of 2025

AB-1152 (Patterson) - Controlled substances: human chorionic gonadotropin.

Human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) is a hormone produced by the placenta during pregnancy. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved hCG to treat female infertility and as a hormone treatment for men, including to treat low sperm count. A prescription is required to obtain hCG. Synthetic hCG is considered a performance-enhancing drug. Its use is generally prohibited in male athletes by various U.S. and international sports leagues, federations, and governing bodies. hCG is strongly associated with anabolic steroids due to its restoration of natural testosterone production following a cycle of steroid use.

hCG is currently included in Schedule III of the controlled substance schedules along with anabolic steroids and testosterone. AB 1152 (Patterson) removes hCG from the controlled substances schedules. As such, obtaining hCG would still require a prescription but it would be subject to fewer restrictions and regulations. Criminal liability under Health and Safety Code section 11377—which prohibits the possession of a non-narcotic Schedule III substance without a prescription—would also no longer apply.

Status: Chapter 183, Statutes of 2025

SB-497 (Wiener) - Legally protected health care activity.

A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions. California's PDMP is known as CURES, maintained by DOJ to assist health care practitioners in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing, furnishing, and dispensing of controlled substances, and law enforcement and regulatory agencies in controlling diversion and abuse of controlled substances. Licensed health care practitioners and pharmacists may access information in CURES only for patients under their care. Regulatory agency officials and law enforcement officials may access CURES information only to assist the efforts of their agencies to control the diversion and resultant abuse of controlled substances.

Currently, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have some form of PDMP. Many of these states participate in one of several interstate data share hubs that allow for the exchange of prescription information. For example, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy administers PMP InterConnect, a technology solution developed in partnership with Bamboo Health that currently connects 48 state PDMPs. Another interstate data share hub, RxCheck, has historically been operated by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistant using Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange National Architecture specifications developed by a PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Center housed within Brandeis University.

As of April, 2025, California does not participate in any major interstate data share hubs. AB 1751 was enacted in 2018 to authorize, but not require, the DOJ to share prescription records between CURES and other databases across state lines, with a requirement that other states meet California's patient privacy and data security standards. To date, DOJ has not reached an agreement to share prescription data with PMP InterConnect or RxCheck in a manner consistent with California's privacy and security requirements. However, DOJ does currently have a direct interstate data-sharing agreement with the State of Oregon, which allows for prescription data to be shared between CURES and Oregon's PDMP.

SB 497 creates two misdemeanors related to misuse of CURES, prohibits other improper sharing of CURES data, and prohibits DOJ from providing CURES data to out-of-state law enforcement absent a warrant, subpoena, or court order. Specifically, among other things, this bill provides that any person who accesses the CURES database and who is not authorized by law to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor; and provides that any person authorized by law to access the CURES database and who knowingly furnishes the information from the CURES database to a person who is not authorized by law to receive that information is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Status: Chapter 764, Statutes of 2025

Corrections

AB-651 (Bryan) - Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent.

Existing law requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, proceedings terminating their parental rights or seeking to adjudicate the child of a prisoner a dependent child of the court. Existing law prohibits these proceedings from being adjudicated without the physical presence of the parent unless the court receives a knowing waiver from the parent of their right to be physically present at the proceedings, or an affidavit signed by a person in charge of the incarcerating institution that the prisoner does not intend to appear at the proceeding. Existing law authorizes, in the court's discretion, an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present at those proceedings to be given the opportunity to participate remotely.

AB 651 (Bryan) requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, specified additional dependency hearings relating to their child. AB 651 additionally requires an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present to be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings by videoconference, and, if videoconferencing technology is not available, require the use of teleconferencing.

Existing law entitles a minor who is the subject of a juvenile court hearing to be present at that hearing and represented by counsel; and to address the court and participate in the hearing. Existing law generally requires the court to continue the hearing to allow the minor to be present if they were not properly notified or if they wished to present, but were not given the opportunity. AB 651 expands the above provisions, among others, to include nonminor dependents.

Status: Chapter 274, Statutes of 2025

AB-799 (Celeste Rodriguez) - prisons: death benefit for incarcerated firefighters.

Labor Code section 3370 specifies that inmate fire crews are eligible for workers compensation. Accordingly, workers compensation is the exclusive remedy for industrial injury and death. Labor code section 3370 also states inmates are not entitled to benefits while they are incarcerated. Benefits commence upon release. The amount of benefits are calculated pursuant to Labor Code section 4453, and the average weekly earnings is set at the minimum amount of actual earnings. The minimum total and

temporary disability weekly rate is $242.86.

AB 799 (C. Rodriguez) requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to pay a death benefit of $50,000, as well as fifty percent of the a compensation earned by the deceased crew member during the twelve months immediately preceding the death of the crew member assigned to the California Conservation Camp program, as specified.

Status: Chapter 711, Statutes of 2025

AB-812 (Lowenthal) - Recall and resentencing: incarcerated firefighters.

Existing law authorizes a court, on its own motion within 120 days of the date of the defendant's commitment, or at any time if the applicable sentencing laws have changed or upon a recommendation from the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the Board of Parole Hearings, or the district attorney, to recall a defendant's sentence and resentence that defendant to a lesser sentence.

Existing law establishes the California Conservation Camps for the purpose of having incarcerated persons work on projects supervised by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Existing law requires CDCR to utilize incarcerated persons assigned to conservation camps in performing fire prevention, fire control, and other work.

AB 812 (Lowenthal) requires CDCR, no later than July 1, 2027, to promulgate regulations, as specified, regarding the referral of participants in the California Conservation Camp program and incarcerated persons working at institutional firehouses for resentencing.

Status: Chapter 712, Statutes of 2025

AB-952 (Elhawary) - Youth Offender Program Camp Pilot Program.

Existing law authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to prescribe rules and adopt regulations for the administration of the prisons and administration of the parole of specified persons. Existing law provides that, in general, these regulations shall be adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), but exempts from that requirement regulations relating to pilot programs that are legislatively authorized or mandated, or departmentally authorized, as specified. Existing law requires a regulation adopted under that exemption to be repealed by operation of law 2 years after the commencement of the pilot program being implemented unless the regulation is adopted, amended, or repealed pursuant to the APA.

Under the authority of those provisions, CDCR established the Youth Offender Program Camp Pilot Program, with the purpose of the program being to encourage youth offenders to commit to positive change and self-improvement with the goal of being law-abiding members of society upon release and to provide youth the opportunity to receive wildland firefighting training.

AB 952 (Elhawary) requires the secretary of CDCR to make permanent the Youth Offender Program Camp Pilot Program, and authorizes the secretary to expand the program to include some or all of the California Conservation Camps.

Status: Chapter 718, Statutes of 2025

AB-1269 (Bryan) - County and city jails: incarcerated person contacts.

Existing law requires CDCR, within 24 hours of an incarcerated person being hospitalized for a serious or critical medical condition, to inform all persons covered by the current medical release of information form about the incarcerated person's health status, and to facilitate telephone calls between the incarcerated person and those persons if the incarcerated person consents. Existing law also requires CDCR to notify all persons covered by the current medical release of information form and next of kin form within 24 hours of an incarcerated person's death.

AB 1269 (Bryan) requires county and city jails, within 24 hours, to notify all people covered by the medical release of information and next of kin form of the death of a person incarcerated in county or city jail.

Status: Chapter 726, Statutes of 2025

SB-245 (Reyes) - Criminal procedure.

Penal Code section 1203.4b allows a formerly incarcerated firefighter to petition the court to withdraw their guilty plea or nolo contendere, set aside their guilty verdict in a conviction, and/or terminate parole or post release community supervision. This is important because while Cal Fire, the United States Forest Service, and interagency hot shot crews do not require Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification to become employed as a firefighter, many municipal fire departments do. To be eligible for expungement relief, the formerly incarcerated firefighter must petition the court in the county where they were sentenced. Once the petition is filed, the court sends a copy to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) or to the appropriate county authority.

SB 245 (Reyes) requires the CDCR to notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) of formerly-incarcerated fire crew members who are potentially eligible for expungement,

requires DOJ to regularly identify convictions that are eligible for expungement on the basis of a person's service as an incarcerated firefighter, and creates a court process for ordering such expungements.

Status: Chapter 746, Statutes of 2025

SB-551 (Cortese) - Corrections and rehabilitation: state policy.

On March 17, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a historic commitment to safety and justice, "the California Model," to include the transformation of San Quentin Rehabilitation Center. The California Model is based on four foundational pillars meant to improve the health and well-being of people who live and work within CDCR institutions: dynamic security, normalization, peer-mentorship, and becoming a trauma-informed organization.

SB 551 (Cortese) codifies two of the four pillars of the California Model -- normalization and dynamic security. Dynamic security is an approach that promotes positive relationships between staff and incarcerated people accomplished through purposeful activities and professional, positive, and respectful communication. Normalization aims to bring life in prison as close as possible to life outside of prison because the more life in prison resembles life in the community, the easier it will be for people to transition and adjust to life in the community upon release. This bill directs CDCR to include the principles of normalization and dynamic security in its mission statement. It also direct CDCR to develop training for all correctional staff to teach these principles.

Moreover, existing law provides that the primary objective of adult incarceration in CDCR is to facilitate the successful reintegration of the individuals in the department's care back to their communities equipped with the tools to be drug-free, healthy, and employable members of society by providing education, treatment, and rehabilitative and restorative justice programs, all in a safe and humane environment. (Pen. Code, § 5000, subd. (b).) This bill provides that an additional primary objective is to promote personal growth for all CDCR residents.

Status: Chapter 225, Statutes of 2025

SB-553 (Cortese) - Prisons: clearances.

According to the author of this bill, "An effective and accountable corrections system depends on ensuring efficient access for those responsible for shaping its policies and making informed decisions related to the criminal justice system. Currently, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) requires state officials and legal professionals seeking prison entrance to undergo an extensive clearance process for each facility. This repetitive procedure creates administrative burdens and

delays that hinder oversight."

To address this issue, SB 553 (Cortese) requires CDCR to provide standardized clearance process for legal professionals to apply for annual clearances for approval to provide legal services at all state prisons. This bill defines legal professional as an attorney or attorney representative. This bill also requires CDCR to notify all legal professional applicants for annual clearance of its decision to approve or deny the application within 30 days of receipt of the application, or within 30 days of receiving the necessary information from DOJ used to aid in making its determination.

Finally, this bill requires the following individuals to be granted short-term clearance without the requirement to apply for a clearance for all CDCR facilities upon request: the Governor and all cabinet members, members of the Legislature and legislative staff, and sitting state judges.

Status: Chapter 226, Statutes of 2025

Court Hearings

AB-651 (Bryan) - Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent.

Existing law requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, proceedings terminating their parental rights or seeking to adjudicate the child of a prisoner a dependent child of the court. Existing law prohibits these proceedings from being adjudicated without the physical presence of the parent unless the court receives a knowing waiver from the parent of their right to be physically present at the proceedings, or an affidavit signed by a person in charge of the incarcerating institution that the prisoner does not intend to appear at the proceeding. Existing law authorizes, in the court's discretion, an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present at those proceedings to be given the opportunity to participate remotely.

AB 651 (Bryan) requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, specified additional dependency hearings relating to their child. AB 651 additionally requires an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present to be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings by videoconference, and, if videoconferencing technology is not available, require the use of teleconferencing.

Existing law entitles a minor who is the subject of a juvenile court hearing to be present at that hearing and represented by counsel; and to address the court and participate in

the hearing. Existing law generally requires the court to continue the hearing to allow the minor to be present if they were not properly notified or if they wished to present, but were not given the opportunity. AB 651 expands the above provisions, among others, to include nonminor dependents.

Status: Chapter 274, Statutes of 2025

SB-27 (Umberg) - Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.

Existing law, the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, authorizes specified adult persons to petition a civil court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan and implement services, to be provided by county behavioral health agencies, to provide behavioral health care, including stabilization medication, housing, and other enumerated services, to adults who are currently experiencing a severe mental illness and have a diagnosis identified in the disorder class schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and who meet other specified criteria. Existing law authorizes a specified individual to commence the CARE process, known as the original petitioner. Existing law authorizes the court to dismiss a case without prejudice when the court finds that a petitioner has not made a prima facie showing that they qualify for the CARE process. Existing law requires the court to take prescribed actions if it finds that a prima facie showing has been made, including, but not limited to, setting the matter for an initial appearance on the petition. Existing law requires the court, if it determines the parties have entered or are likely to enter into a CARE agreement, to either approve or modify the CARE agreement and continue the matter at a progress hearing in 60 days, or continue the matter for 14 days to allow the parties additional time to enter into an agreement.

Existing law prohibits a person from being tried or adjudged to punishment while that person is mentally incompetent. Existing law requires the court to, for a person found mentally incompetent and not charged with certain offenses, among other things, determine whether restoring the person to mental competence is in the interests of justice. Existing law requires the court to, if restoring the person to mental competence is not in the interests of justice, conduct a hearing, as specified, and determine the person's eligibility for diversion. Under existing law, if the court determines, at the first hearing, that the person is ineligible for diversion, the court is required to hold a hearing to determine the person's other options, including the CARE program.

Existing law authorizes a court to refer an individual from, among other things, assisted outpatient treatment or conservatorship proceedings to CARE Act proceedings. Existing law provides that if the individual is referred from assisted outpatient treatment, the county behavioral health director or their designee shall be the petitioner, whereas if the

referral is from conservatorship proceedings, the conservator or proposed conservator is the petitioner.

SB 27 (Umberg) allows the court to make a prima facie determination without conducting a hearing. SB 27 would authorize the court, in the first hearing to determine competence to stand trial, to consider the petitioner's eligibility for both diversion and the CARE program. SB 27 authorizes the court to refer the petitioner to the CARE Act court if the defendant or counsel for the defendant agrees to the referral and the court has reason to believe the petitioner may be eligible for the CARE program. If the petitioner is not accepted into the CARE program or if the CARE Act court refers the petitioner back to criminal court, the criminal court would be required to conduct a hearing to determine whether the petitioner is eligible for a diversion program. SB 27 authorizes the county behavioral health agency and jail medical providers to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court for the purpose of determining likelihood of eligibility for behavioral health services and programs.

SB 27 authorizes the court to call additional progress hearings after 60 days and also includes persons suffering from bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, except for psychosis related to current intoxication, in the disorder class. SB 27 additionally authorizes a court to refer an individual from felony proceedings to the CARE Act program and authorizes a CARE Act court to consider a referral as a petition for participation in the CARE program if certain requirements are met.

Existing law also requires the Judicial Council to develop a mandatory form for use to file a CARE process petition with the court, and requires the petition to be signed under penalty of perjury and include either an affidavit of a licensed behavioral health professional or evidence that the respondent was detained for a minimum of two intensive treatments. SB 27 additionally includes a nurse practitioner and physician assistant as a licensed behavioral health professional for purposes of individuals authorized to prepare an affidavit supporting a CARE process petition.

Status: Chapter 528, Statutes of 2025

SB-281 (Pérez) - Pleas: immigration advisement.

California law requires a court, prior to accepting a plea from a defendant, to advise the defendant of the potential immigration consequences of their guilty plea. (Pen. Code, § 1016.5, subd. (a).) Particularly, the court must administer the following advisement, on the record, to the defendant: "If you are not a citizen, you are hereby advised that conviction of the offense for which you have been charged may have the consequences of deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization

pursuant to the laws of the United States." (Ibid.)

SB 281 (Pérez) requires this immigration advisement to be administered verbatim as it appears in the statute. The bill stems from the admitted practice of some courts advising defendants that their plea "will," rather than "may," result in adverse immigration consequences. Additionally, it specifies that for a plea accepted prior to January 1, 2026, it is not the intent of the Legislature that a court's failure to provide a verbatim immigration advisement, as specified, requires the vacation of judgment and withdrawal of the plea or otherwise constitutes grounds for finding a prior conviction invalid due to a failure to provide the immigration advisement. This does not inhibit a court in the exercise of its discretion, or as otherwise required by law, from vacating a judgment and permitting a defendant to withdraw a plea as otherwise authorized by law.

Status: Chapter 666, Statutes of 2025

Criminal Justice Programs

AB-741 (Ransom) - Department of Justice: child abuse reporting.

The Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) was created in 1965 as a centralized system for collecting reports of suspected child abuse. This is not an index of people who have been convicted of any crime; it is an index of persons against whom reports of child abuse or neglect have been made, investigated, and determined by the reporting agency (local welfare departments and law enforcement) to meet the requirements for inclusion, as specified. In California, local Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs receive notices from the Department of Justice (DOJ), the FBI, and the Department of Motor Vehicles of any changes in the background screening results of any volunteer (CASA and CASA Board Member) or staff member. Often called the "rap back," these notices allow the CASA program to immediately investigate the suitability of any volunteer or staff member to continue working with children. However, currently, local programs do not receive such notices from the CACI. In fact, existing law actually restricts the receipt of subsequent responses for CACI information to the California Department of Social Services only, thus leaving CASA programs without this safeguard.

AB 741 authorizes the DOJ to monitor the CACI and notify the CASA program if a child abuse investigation record involving a CASA employee or volunteer is added to the CACI, and allows the DOJ to increase the fee for a CASA candidate's state and federal criminal history background check, as specified, sufficient to cover the cost of processing subsequent child abuse investigation notifications from the CACI.

According to the author, "The safety, protection, and well-being of children in foster care is paramount, and thus it is imperative to extend subsequent notices for CACI information to CASA programs in California. Primarily, this change will enhance child safety, but it will also reduce the financial and administrative burdens on the 44 local CASA programs serving California courts. By taking these steps, we can further strengthen the state's commitment to safeguarding these most vulnerable individuals: the children and youth in California's foster care system."

Status: Chapter 619, Statutes of 2025

AB-799 (Celeste Rodriguez) - prisons: death benefit for incarcerated firefighters.

Labor Code section 3370 specifies that inmate fire crews are eligible for workers compensation. Accordingly, workers compensation is the exclusive remedy for industrial injury and death. Labor code section 3370 also states inmates are not entitled to benefits while they are incarcerated. Benefits commence upon release. The amount of benefits are calculated pursuant to Labor Code section 4453, and the average weekly earnings is set at the minimum amount of actual earnings. The minimum total and temporary disability weekly rate is $242.86.

AB 799 (C. Rodriguez) requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to pay a death benefit of $50,000, as well as fifty percent of the a compensation earned by the deceased crew member during the twelve months immediately preceding the death of the crew member assigned to the California Conservation Camp program, as specified.

Status: Chapter 711, Statutes of 2025

AB-1071 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

Existing law establishes the Racial Justice Act of 2020 (RJA) and prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction or seeking, obtaining, or imposing a sentence based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. The RJA includes several remedies for a violation of the RJA, including re-sentencing and a dismissal of an enhancement.

AB 1071 (Kalra) amends the RJA by authorizing a defendant to file a motion for disclosure of relevant evidence in any proceeding alleging a violation of the RJA and in preparation for the filing of a motion to vacate or habeas petition based on an RJA violation. This bill also specifies that RJA definitions and legal thresholds apply to motions to vacate and habeas petitions based on an RJA violation; clarifies that habeas counsel shall be appointed if a petitioner unable to afford counsel pleads a plausible

allegation of an RJA violation, rather than alleges facts that would establish a violation; requires a prima facie determination in a habeas proceeding be based on the petitioner's showing and the record; and clarifies that if the court finds a violation of the RJA on habeas or a motion to vacate, the court must impose one or more of the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA.

Status: Chapter 721, Statutes of 2025

AB-1258 (Kalra) - Deferred entry of judgment pilot program.

Existing law provides that the counties of Alameda, Butte, Napa, Nevada, and Santa Clara may establish a pilot program to operate a deferred entry of judgment pilot program until January 1, 2024 for certain eligible defendants. Existing law also provides that a defendant may participate in a deferred entry of judgment pilot program within the county's juvenile hall if that person is charged with committing a felony offense, except as specified, they plead guilty to the charge or charges, and the probation department determines that the person meets all of the following specified.

AB 1258 (Kalra) extends the deferred entry of judgment pilot program, for the Counties of Butte, Nevada, and Santa Clara, to January 1, 2029, and would require an evaluation of the pilot program's impact and effectiveness in their county.

Status: Chapter 394, Statutes of 2025

ACR-60 (Pacheco) - Peace officers: disability-informed response programs.

Existing law provides that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) has the following purpose:

a) To provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;

b) To provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities;

c) To ensure that the Federal Government plays a central role in enforcing the standards established in this Act on behalf of individuals with disabilities; and

d) To invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day-to-day by people with disabilities.

ACR 60 recognizes the importance of disability-informed response programs in

promoting public safety and commends the efforts of law enforcement agencies that have implemented these disability-informed response programs. It also resolves that the Legislature reaffirm its commitment to promote the safety, dignity, and full inclusion of Californians with disabilities.

Status: Chapter 73, Statutes of 2025

SB-245 (Reyes) - Criminal procedure.

Penal Code section 1203.4b allows a formerly incarcerated firefighter to petition the court to withdraw their guilty plea or nolo contendere, set aside their guilty verdict in a conviction, and/or terminate parole or post release community supervision. This is important because while Cal Fire, the United States Forest Service, and interagency hot shot crews do not require Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification to become employed as a firefighter, many municipal fire departments do. To be eligible for expungement relief, the formerly incarcerated firefighter must petition the court in the county where they were sentenced. Once the petition is filed, the court sends a copy to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) or to the appropriate county authority.

SB 245 (Reyes) requires the CDCR to notify the Department of Justice (DOJ) of formerly-incarcerated fire crew members who are potentially eligible for expungement, requires DOJ to regularly identify convictions that are eligible for expungement on the basis of a person's service as an incarcerated firefighter, and creates a court process for ordering such expungements.

Status: Chapter 746, Statutes of 2025

SB-459 (Grayson) - Peace officers: confidential communications: group peer support services.

Existing law authorizes a local or regional law enforcement agency to establish a peer support and crisis referral program to provide employee support and referral services for issues relating to substance abuse and critical incident stress, among other types of issues. (Gov. Code, § 8669.2, subds. (a) & (b).) Certain communications by law enforcement personnel participating in peer support services are confidential. Particularly, law enforcement personnel have the right to refuse to disclose, and to prevent another from disclosing, a confidential communication between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member made while the peer support team member was providing peer support services. (Gov. Code, § 8669.4, subd. (a).)

SB 459 (Grayson) expands the confidentiality protections available to law enforcement members that are participating in peer support services in two ways. First, it expands

the right of law enforcement personnel to refuse to disclose, and prevent another from disclosing, a confidential communication between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member made while the peer support team member was providing peer support services, by specifying that this right applies to confidential communications made between that law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member during group peer support services. Second, this bill applies peer support service confidentiality protections not only to communications between a peer support team member and a recipient officer, but also to those communications between different recipients of group peer support services that occur within the confines of group sessions. It also clarifies that confidential communications may be disclosed in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Status: Chapter 456, Statutes of 2025

SB-733 (Wahab) - Sexual assault forensic evidence: testing.

California established the Sexual Assault Victims' DNA Bill of Rights in 2003. Upon the request of the survivor, law enforcement agencies investigating the sexual assault must inform the survivor of the status of the DNA testing. Specifically, the California DNA Bill of Rights provides that survivors have a right to be informed whether or not the assailant's DNA profile was developed from the rape kit or other crime scene evidence, whether or not that profile was uploaded to the DNA database and whether or not a hit resulted from the upload. In November 2022, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the launch of a new online portal to allow survivors of sexual assault to track the status of their sexual assault evidence kits and the hiring of the state’s first-ever sexual assault evidence outreach coordinator to work directly with law enforcement, medical facilities, and other partner organizations to support local efforts to track and process sexual assault evidence.

SB 733 (Wahab) authorizes a sexual assault victim who is 18 years of age or older to request that all medical evidence collected from them not be tested; the victim may later request that their kit be tested, regardless of whether they also decide to make a report to law enforcement.

Status: Chapter 783, Statutes of 2025

Criminal Offenses

AB-82 (Ward) - Health care: legally protected health care activity.

A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions. California’s PDMP is known as CURES, maintained

by DOJ to assist health care practitioners in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing, furnishing, and dispensing of controlled substances, and law enforcement and regulatory agencies in controlling diversion and abuse of controlled substances. Licensed health care practitioners and pharmacists may access information in CURES only for patients under their care. Regulatory agency officials and law enforcement officials may access CURES information only to assist the efforts of their agencies to control the diversion and resultant abuse of controlled substances.

DOJ is authorized to enter into an agreement with an entity operating an interstate data sharing hub, or an agency operating a PDMP in another state, for purposes of interstate data sharing of PDMP information. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(1).) Data obtained from CURES may be provided to authorized users of another state's PDMP, if the entity operating the interstate data sharing hub, and the PDMP of that state, have entered into an agreement with the department for interstate data sharing of PDMP information. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(2).) An agreement entered into by DOJ for the purposes of interstate data sharing of PDMP information must ensure that all access to data obtained from CURES as well as the handling of data contained within CURES comply with California law, including regulations, and meet the same patient privacy, audit, and data security standards employed and required for direct access to CURES. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (h)(3).)

Of relevance to this bill, testosterone is a Schedule III controlled substance and subject to the requirements of the CURES statutes. Mifepristone is not scheduled. This bill requires DOJ, on or before January 1, 2027, to remove existing records of prescriptions for the dispensing of testosterone or mifepristone created or maintained prior to January 1, 2026.

In addition, in recognition that there may be other drugs not yet on a controlled substances list but which may impact sensitive, legally-protected health care, this bill authorizes DOJ, in consultation with the California Health and Human Services Agency, health care providers, and clinicians, to add medications for legally protected health care activity to the list of medications prohibited from being reported to DOJ, CURES, or a contracted prescription data processing vendor.

Current law prohibits a person from posting on the internet or social media, with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving violence or a threat of violence against a reproductive health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address, the personal information or image of a reproductive health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address. (Gov. Code, §

6218.01, subd. (a)(1).) The conduct is punishable as a wobbler, with imprisonment of either up to one year in a county jail, or pursuant to criminal justice realignment, by a fine of up to $10,000 per violation, or by both. (Gov. Code, § 6218.01, subd. (a)(2).) A violation that leads to the bodily injury of a reproductive covered health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address, is a felony punishable in the county jail under realignment, by a fine of up to $50,000, or by both. (Gov. Code, § 6218.01, subd. (a)(3).) This bill expands that crime to give those same protections to gender affirming health care services patients, providers, or assistants.

This bill also sets $0 bail for an individual arrested in connection with regards to offenses arising out of legally protected gender-affirming health care.

Status: Chapter 679, Statutes of 2025

AB-352 (Pacheco) - Crimes: criminal threats.

Existing law punishes any person who assaults a judge or the family member of a judge in retaliation for or to prevent performance of the judge's official duties to up to three years in county jail. Additionally, existing law already protects a judicial officer's address. The Government Code prohibits any person from knowingly posting the home address or phone number of any elected or appointed official, or the official's spouse or children, knowing that person is an elected or appointed official and intending to cause imminent great bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatening to cause imminent great bodily harm to that individual. Posting an elected or appointed official's address on the internet is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in the county jail. Finally, existing law also prohibits any person, business, or association from soliciting, selling, or trading on the internet the home address or telephone number of an elected or appointed official with the intent to cause imminent great bodily harm to the official or to any person residing at the official's home address.

AB 352 (Pacheco) provides that, for purposes of sentencing a person for a felony violation of criminal threats, the court may consider as an aggravating factor that the defendant willfully threatened to commit a crime that would result in the death or great bodily injury of a person the defendant knew to be a constitutional officer, member of the Legislature, judge, or court commissioner.

Status: Chapter 554, Statutes of 2025

AB-379 (Schultz) - Crimes: prostitution.

Existing law provides that a person who solicits, or who agrees to engage in, or who engages in, any act of prostitution is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor. Under

existing law, if the person solicited was under 16 years of age, or if the person solicited was under 18 years of age at the time of the offense and the person solicited was a victim of human trafficking, the offense is punishable as a misdemeanor by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year and a fine not to exceed $10,000, or as a felony by imprisonment in the county jail for 16 months or 2 or 3 years. AB 379 (Schultz) makes that increased punishment applicable if the solicited minor was more than 3 years younger than the defendant at the time of the offense. AB 379 would require a defendant subject to that increased punishment, if granted probation, to successfully complete an education program on human trafficking and the exploitation of children, as specified.

AB 379 creates a new misdemeanor for any person to loiter in any public place with the intent to purchase commercial sex, as specified, and makes any person who violates that crime or who commits prostitution in exchange for providing compensation, money, or anything of value to the other person subject to an additional fine of $1,000, and would establish the Survivor Support Fund and require that additional fine be deposited in the fund. AB 379 requires the California Victim Compensation Board to establish a grant program to provide grants to community-based organizations that provide direct services and outreach to victims of sex trafficking and exploitation, and would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, authorize moneys in the Survivor Support Fund to be used for the purposes of that grant program.

Existing law requires specified businesses and other establishments, including, among others, airports, intercity passenger rail or light rail stations, bus stations, facilities that provide pediatric care, and truck stops, to post a notice, as developed by the Department of Justice, that contains information relating to slavery and human trafficking, including information regarding specified nonprofit organizations that a person can call for services or support in the elimination of slavery and human trafficking. A business or establishment that fails to comply with the requirements of these provisions is liable for a civil penalty of $500 for a first offense, and $1,000 for each subsequent offense. AB 379 increases that civil penalty to $1,000 for a first offense, and $2,000 for each subsequent offense and requires these fines to be deposited in the Survivors Support Fund.

Existing law allows civil penalties to be imposed against a hotel, as defined, if a supervisory employee, as defined, of the hotel knew of or acted with reckless disregard of the activity constituting sex trafficking activity, as defined, that occurred within the hotel and failed to inform law enforcement, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, or another appropriate victim service organization, as specified, or if any employee of that hotel was acting within the scope of employment and knowingly benefited from

participating in a venture that the employee knew, or acted in reckless disregard of the activity constituting sex trafficking activity within the hotel. Existing law authorizes a city, county, or city and county attorney to seek equitable relief against a hotel, and to seek a civil penalty of $1,000 for the first violation, $3,000 for a second violation within the same calendar year, and $5,000 for a third and any subsequent violation of sex trafficking within the same calendar year. Existing law authorizes a court to consider specified factors and exercise its discretion to increase the amount of the civil penalty, not to exceed $10,000, for any fourth or subsequent violation.

AB 379 additionally authorizes the attorney general to enforce these provisions and increases the penalty for a violation of these provisions to $3,000 for a first violation, $10,000 for a second violation within a 24-month period of time, and $15,000 for the third and any subsequent violation within a 24-month period of time. AB 379 authorizes the court to increase the amount of the civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $40,000 for a fourth or subsequent violation and requires fines collected pursuant to these provisions to be deposited in the Survivors Support Fund.

Finally, AB 379 requires the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), to the extent funds are available for this purpose, to allocate and award funds to up to 11 district attorney offices that employ a vertical prosecution methodology for the prosecution of human trafficking crimes and that meet other specified criteria, including minimum staffing levels for the program.

Status: Chapter 82, Statutes of 2025

AB-394 (Wilson) - Public transportation providers.

Under existing law, battery of specified transportation officials is punishable by up to one year in county jail, a $10,000 fine, or both. (Pen. Code, § 243.3.) In contrast, ordinary battery is punishable by up to six months in county jail. (Pen. Code, §§ 242 & 243, subd. (a).) The elevated criminal penalties apply to assault and battery on operators, drivers, or passengers on a bus, taxicab, streetcar, cable car, trackless trolley, or other motor vehicle, including a vehicle operated on stationary rails or on a track or rail suspended in the air, used for the transportation of persons for hire, or against a school-bus driver, station agent or ticket agent for the entity providing the transportation. (Pen. Code, § 243.3.)

AB 394 (Wilson) expands the heightened criminal penalties that apply to a person that commits battery against certain transit workers to include battery against a public transportation provider, or employees and contractors of a public transportation provider. Additionally, it clarifies, declaratory of existing law, that an "employer," for the purpose of when an employer may seek a specified workplace restraining order on

behalf of an employee, includes a joint powers authority or a public transit operator, as specified, and that "unlawful violence," for the purpose of when an employer may seek such an order, includes any violation of the crime of battery of specified transit officials.

Status: Chapter 147, Statutes of 2025

AB-461 (Ahrens) - Truancy: CalWORKs: school attendance.

Existing law generally makes persons between the ages of 6 and 18 years of age subject to compulsory full-time education, unless exempted. Existing law makes a parent or guardian of a pupil of 6 years of age or more who is in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, and subject to compulsory full-time or continuing education, whose child is a chronic truant, as defined, who has failed to reasonably supervise and encourage the pupil's school attendance, and who has been offered support services to address the pupil's truancy, guilty of a misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine of up to $2,000, or imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year, or both that fine and imprisonment.

AB 461 (Ahrens) repeals the criminal offense for parents who fail to reasonably supervise and encourage pupil school attendance resulting in chronic truancy.

Status: Chapter 154, Statutes of 2025

AB-468 (Gabriel) - Crimes: looting.

In the wake of the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles County in January 2025, there were multiple reports of arrests for looting. On January 9, 2025, Governor Newsom announced deployment of the California National Guard to support local law enforcement to combat instances of looting. The Governor subsequently called for looting in a fire evacuation zone to be a felony.

Existing law defines looting as the commission of specified theft-related offenses during and within an affected county during a state or local of emergency, or under an evacuation order resulting from a natural or manmade disaster. (Pen. Code, § 463.) Where the underlying offense is burglary or grand theft, the punishment for looting is an alternate felony-misdemeanor (wobbler) punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year, or by imprisonment in county jail for 16 months, two years, or three years. (Pen. Code, § 463, subds. (a) & (b).) Where the underlying crime is petty theft, looting is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in county jail. (Pen. Code, § 463, subds. (a).) Unlike the punishment for the underlying theft crimes themselves, a person convicted of looting and granted probation must serve a mandatory minimum jail term, unless a judge exercises discretion, in the interests of justice, to reduce or eliminate that term. (Pen. Code, § 463, subds. (a)-(c).)

This bill recasts the current looting provisions and increases the penalties for looting in an evacuation zone. As noted above, the current looting statute covers the crimes of second-degree burglary, grand theft, and petty theft. When committed in an evacuation zone, this bill increases the penalties for second-degree burglary and grand theft from a wobbler to a straight felony punishable by imprisonment for up to four years. This bill does not change the penalty for petty theft.

This bill also adds three new crimes under the looting statute if the offense is committed in an evacuation zone: first-degree burglary, trespass, and “theft from an unlocked vehicle.” This bill increases the upper term for first-degree burglary from six to seven years in state prison. This bill increases the punishment for trespass from a misdemeanor to a wobbler punishable by imprisonment for up to three years. This bill states that the punishment for theft from an unlocked vehicle in an evacuation zone is a wobbler punishable by imprisonment for up to three years.

The bill defines “evacuation zone” as an evacuation area or an area subject to an evacuation warning. Evacuation area controls remain in effect until an evacuation order is lifted by the initiating law enforcement entity. However, this bill also includes within the scope of this definition, residential dwelling units undergoing reconstruction following damage or destruction caused by an earthquake, fire, flood, riot, or other natural or manmade disaster, after an evacuation order or warning has been lifted.

Status: Chapter 533, Statutes of 2025

AB-486 (Lackey) - Crimes: burglary tools.

Existing law makes the possession of certain tools, such as a picklock or a screwdriver, with intent to feloniously break or enter into a specified building or vehicle, a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in county jail, a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both. (Pen. Code, §§ 19 & 466.) Similarly, it is a misdemeanor to knowingly make, alter, or attempt to make or alter such tools so that they will fit or open the lock of such a structure or vehicle without being requested to do so by a person with a right to open the lock of such a structure or vehicle. (Ibid.)

AB 486 (Lackey) adds key programming devices, key duplicating devices, and signal extenders to the list of prohibited tools encompassed by the above offenses. For the purpose of this bill, a ″key programming device″ or ″key duplicating device″ means any device with the capability to access a vehicle′s onboard computer to allow additional keys to be made, delete keys, or remotely start the vehicle without the use of any key. A key duplicating device includes a device with the ability to capture a key code or signal in order to remotely access a vehicle. A ″signal extender″ means a key fob amplifier or

other device that extends the signal range of a keyless entry car fob to send a coded signal to a receiver in a vehicle to lock, unlock, access a vehicle, start the engine, or interact with other remote commands associated to the vehicle′s onboard computer.

Status: Chapter 367, Statutes of 2025

AB-535 (Schiavo) - Threatening a witness: assisting a prosecution.

Existing law makes it a crime to knowingly and maliciously prevent or dissuade, or attempt to prevent or dissuade, a witness or victim from causing a complaint, indictment, information, or probation or parole violation to be sought and prosecuted, and assisting in the prosecution thereof. The California Supreme Court held that this part of the law, as written, only makes it a crime under this statute to prevent, or attempt to prevent, a witness or victim from both filing a report and assisting in the prosecution of the accused. (See People v. Reynoza (2024) 15 Cal.5th 982, 990.)

AB 535 (Schiavo) clarifies that preventing, or attempting to prevent, a witness or victim of a crime from either causing a complaint, indictment, information, or probation or parole violation to be sought, or assisting in a resulting prosecution, is a crime under this statute. By replacing the word "and" with "or" in Penal Code section 136.1, subdivision (b)(2), this bill allows for prosecution and conviction under this statute if it can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused engaged in preventing or attempting to prevent a victim or witness from either filing a report or assisting in the prosecution of the accused.

Status: Chapter 373, Statutes of 2025

AB-1094 (Bains) - Crimes: torture of a minor: parole.

Penal Code section 206 is the torture statute and states any person, with the intent to cause cruel or extreme pain and suffering, for the purpose of revenge, extortion, persuasion, or for any sadistic purpose, inflicts great bodily injury. Penal Code section 206.1, sets the sentence for torture as “life.” Life, without any further specification, means a minimum of seven years and a maximum term of natural life in state prison. The penalty for felony child abuse resulting in traumatic injury is two, four, or six years in state prison.

AB 1094 prohibits a person imprisoned for committing torture on or after January 1, 2026 from being eligible for parole until the person has served at least 10 years, if the defendant was an adult at the time of the crime and the victim was 14 years of age or younger and in the care or custody of the defendant at the time of the crime.

Status: Chapter 631, Statutes of 2025

AB-1127 (Gabriel) - Firearms: converter pistols.

Existing law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer. The law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. Existing law additionally prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun, except as authorized. Under these provisions, “machinegun” is defined as "any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a felony. Existing law also generally makes it a crime to manufacture or sell an unsafe handgun. The Department of Justice is required to compile a roster listing all of the handguns determined not to be unsafe handguns. Criteria are established for determining if a handgun is unsafe, including firearms manufactured after a certain date and not already listed on the roster, handguns without a chamber load indicator, and handguns without a magazine disconnect mechanism.

AB 1127 (Gabriel), beginning July 1, 2026, prohibits a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. This bill would expand the above definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter and prohibit the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter. “Machinegun-convertible pistol” here is defined as "any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as specified." “Pistol converter” is defined as "any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger." AB 1127 (Gabriel) makes the first violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a second violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by the Department of Justice, and a third violation punishable as a misdemeanor that results in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.

AB 1127 (Gabriel) additionally authorizes exemptions for a pistol to be submitted for testing and added to the roster without meeting certain requirements, if the pistol was listed on the roster on January 1, 2026, was not subject to the above-described requirements to be on the list because it was submitted for testing before specified dates, the pistol is thereafter only modified to change the design features that brought the pistol within the definition of a machinegun-convertible pistol, and the pistol is

submitted to an independent certified laboratory for testing pursuant to the above-described testing provisions before January 1, 2027.

Status: Chapter 572, Statutes of 2025

AB-1127 (Gabriel) - Firearms: converter pistols.

Existing law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer. The law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. Existing law additionally prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun, except as authorized. Under these provisions, “machinegun” is defined as "any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a felony. Existing law also generally makes it a crime to manufacture or sell an unsafe handgun. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to compile a roster listing all of the handguns determined not to be unsafe handguns. Criteria are established for determining if a handgun is unsafe, including firearms manufactured after a certain date and not already listed on the roster, handguns without a chamber load indicator, and handguns without a magazine disconnect mechanism.

AB 1127 (Gabriel), beginning July 1, 2026, prohibits a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. This bill expands the above definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter and prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter. It makes the first violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a second violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by DOJ, and a third violation punishable as a misdemeanor that results in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.

This bill additionally would authorize exemptions for a pistol to be submitted for testing and added to the roster without meeting certain requirements, if the pistol was listed on the roster on January 1, 2026, was not subject to the above-described requirements to be on the list because it was submitted for testing before specified dates, that is thereafter only modified to change the design features that brought the pistol within the definition of a machinegun-convertible pistol, and that is submitted to an independent certified laboratory for testing pursuant to the above-described testing provisions before January 1, 2027.

Status: Chapter 572, Statutes of 2025

AB-1134 (Bains) - Coerced marriage.

A marriage in California can end in only one of three ways: death of one of the parties, a judgment of dissolution of the marriage (colloquially known as divorce), or a judgment of nullity of marriage. Both dissolution and nullity require a petition and judgment issued by a court. When a marriage is nullified, the marriage is deemed never to have existed and the parties resume the status of unmarried persons. Certain marriages are voidable, meaning they can be nullified by a judgment of nullity issued by a court when specified circumstances exist, but otherwise will remain valid. The law provides time limits on when a petition for a judgment of nullity can be sought; for a marriage for which consent was obtained through force, the time limit is four years from the date of the marriage. Existing law also only punishes coerced marriage between men and women.

AB 1134 (Bains) permits, beginning January 1, 2027, a court to extend, upon a showing of good cause, the time in which a party who was forced into a marriage can commence a proceeding to nullify the marriage; and updates the crime of forced marriage to make it applicable to persons of all genders.

Status: Chapter 633, Statutes of 2025

AB-1239 (Dixon) - Human trafficking: data.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) currently provides information about human trafficking, including national rates of trafficking. Human trafficking includes both labor trafficking and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The existing DOJ website on human trafficking discusses the California law on trafficking and explains the different types of trafficking covered by both state and federal law

AB 1239 (Dixon) requires the DOJ to include in the information made available on the OpenJustice Web portal information concerning arrests for human trafficking and the number of individuals reported as a victim of human trafficking, as specified, through the California Incident-Based Reporting System.

Status: Chapter 393, Statutes of 2025

AB-1263 (Gipson) - Firearms: ghost guns.

Existing law prohibits a person, other than a state-licensed firearms manufacturer, from using a computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine or three-dimensional (3D) printer to manufacture a firearm. The law also establishes a firearm industry standard of conduct, which requires a firearm industry member to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls, as defined, and to take reasonable precautions to ensure that the

member does not sell, distribute, or provide a firearm-related product, as defined, to a downstream distributor or retailer of firearm-related products who fails to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls. Civil actions are authorized against a person who knowingly distributes or causes to be distributed any digital firearm manufacturing code to any person, except as specified. For these purposes, existing law defines “digital firearm manufacturing code” to mean "any digital instructions in the form of computer-aided design files or other code or instructions that may be used to program a CNC milling machine, a three-dimensional printer, or a similar machine to manufacture or produce a firearm, including a completed frame or receiver or a firearm precursor part." Existing law, subject to exceptions, provides that any person who has been convicted of certain misdemeanors may not, within 10 years of the conviction, own, purchase, receive, possess, or have under their custody or control any firearm and makes a violation of that prohibition a crime.

AB 1263 (Gipson) prohibits a person from knowingly or willfully causing another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms or knowingly or willfully aiding, abetting, prompting, or facilitating the unlawful manufacture of firearms, including the manufacture of any firearm using a 3D printer or CNC milling machine, as specified. The bill would make a violation of these provisions a misdemeanor. This bill additionally updates the definition of "reasonable controls." Reasonable controls is defined as "reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter, as defined, with a firearm." This bill includes computer-aided manufacturing files as a digital instruction and the manufacture or production of a machinegun and specified firearm components, including large-capacity magazines, as part of the definition of "digital firearm manufacturing code." It also authorizes a person who has suffered harm in California as a result of a violation of these provisions to seek compensatory damages and injunctive relief. The bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a person violated the provision of unlawfully distributing or causing to be distributed any digital firearm manufacturing code if the person owns or participates in the management of an internet website that makes digital firearm manufacturing code available for purchase, download, or other distribution to individuals, and the internet website, under the totality of the circumstances, encourages individuals to upload, disseminate, or use digital firearm manufacturing code to manufacture firearms, as specified.

AB 1263 (Gipson) requires, prior to completing the sale or delivery in California or to a California resident of a firearm barrel that is unattached to a firearm, firearm accessory, or a firearm manufacturing machine, that a firearm industry member comply with specified requirements, including providing a prospective purchaser with clear and conspicuous notice that specified conduct is generally a crime in California, including

manufacturing firearms to be sold or transferred to an individual without a license to manufacture firearms. This bill modifies the definition of "firearm accessory." Here, firearm accessory is defined as "an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to increase a firearm's rate of fire or to increase the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine, or any other attachment or device, as described, that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm." This bill also prohibits any person convicted of specified misdemeanor violations, including manufacturing an undetectable firearm or knowingly or willfully causing another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, on or after January 1, 2026, from owning, purchasing, or receiving any firearm within 10 years of the conviction, and makes a violation of that prohibition a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in a county jail or by a fine of up to $1,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Status: Chapter 636, Statutes of 2025

SB-19 (Rubio) - Threats: schools and places of worship.

Existing law makes it a crime to willfully threaten to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat that, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby reasonably causes the threatened person to be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of their immediate family, as defined. Under existing law, this crime is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for no more than one year for a misdemeanor, or by imprisonment in state prison for a felony, also known as a "wobbler".

SB 19 makes it a crime for a person to willfully threaten, by any means, including, but not limited to, an image or threat posted or published on an internet web page, to commit a crime at specified locations, including a daycare and workplace, with specific intent that the statement be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, if the threat, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person or persons threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and if the threat causes a person or person to reasonably be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of others at the specified locations. SB 19 makes this crime, for a person 18 years of age or older, punishable as a wobbler. If a person under 18 years of age commits this crime, SB 19 requires the person to be referred to specified services in lieu of being declared a ward of the court, if eligible. If the person is

ineligible, the offense is to be punished as a misdemeanor.

Status: Chapter 594, Statutes of 2025

SB-221 (Ochoa Bogh) - Crimes: stalking.

Existing law states a defendant may be convicted of stalking for willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or willfully and maliciously harassing another person and making a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear for their safety or the safety of their immediate family. Existing law defines "credible threat" to mean, among other things, a verbal, or written threat, or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct. It is not necessary to prove that the defendant had the intent to actually carry out the threat, but rather that the defendant intended to place the person targeted by the threat in reasonable fear for their safety or the safety of their immediate family.

SB 221 (Ochoa Bogh) expands the definition of "credible threats" in the crime of stalking to include threats to the safety of a victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse.

Status: Chapter 576, Statutes of 2025

SB-258 (Wahab) - Crimes: rape.

In 2021, the Legislature passed AB 1171 (C. Garcia, Ch. 626, Stats. 2021), which repealed the stand-alone spousal rape statute (Pen. Code, § 262) and expanded the definition of rape (Pen. Code, § 261) to include the rape of a spouse in all but one circumstance. The expanded version of the rape statute maintained a limited exemption for the act of sexual intercourse with a spouse who is incapable of giving "legal consent" or having the capacity to consent because of a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability. (Pen. Code, § 261, subd. (a)(1).)

SB 258 (Wahab) expands the circumstances under which sexual intercourse with a spouse is rape, to include where a spouse is incapable of giving "legal consent" due to a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability.

Status: Chapter 599, Statutes of 2025

SB-398 (Umberg) - Election crimes: payment based on voting or voter registration.

Existing law makes it a crime for any person who, in the person's official capacity, knowingly and fraudulently acts in contravention or violation of any laws relating to elections, punishable by fine not exceeding $1,000 or by imprisonment for 16 months, two years, or three years, or by both, unless otherwise prescribed by law. (Elec. Code, §

18002.) Existing law also makes it a crime for a person to receive money or other valuable consideration to assist another to register to vote by receiving the completed affidavit of registration if the person fails to sign the affidavit and include certain other information, including the name and telephone number of the person, company, or organization, if any, that has agreed to pay the money or other valuable consideration. (Elec. Code, § 2159, subd. (a).)

SB 398 (Umberg) makes it a crime for a person to knowingly or willfully pay or offer to pay money or other valuable consideration to another person with the intent to induce the person to vote or register to vote, or where the payment is contingent upon whether the person voted or the person's voter registration status. Under this bill, violations are punishable by a fine of up to $10,000, by imprisonment for 16 months, two years, or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Status: Chapter 246, Statutes of 2025

SB-497 (Wiener) - Legally protected health care activity.

A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions. California's PDMP is known as CURES, maintained by DOJ to assist health care practitioners in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing, furnishing, and dispensing of controlled substances, and law enforcement and regulatory agencies in controlling diversion and abuse of controlled substances. Licensed health care practitioners and pharmacists may access information in CURES only for patients under their care. Regulatory agency officials and law enforcement officials may access CURES information only to assist the efforts of their agencies to control the diversion and resultant abuse of controlled substances.

Currently, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have some form of PDMP. Many of these states participate in one of several interstate data share hubs that allow for the exchange of prescription information. For example, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy administers PMP InterConnect, a technology solution developed in partnership with Bamboo Health that currently connects 48 state PDMPs. Another interstate data share hub, RxCheck, has historically been operated by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistant using Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange National Architecture specifications developed by a PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Center housed within Brandeis University.

As of April, 2025, California does not participate in any major interstate data share hubs. AB 1751 was enacted in 2018 to authorize, but not require, the DOJ to share prescription records between CURES and other databases across state lines, with a

requirement that other states meet California's patient privacy and data security standards. To date, DOJ has not reached an agreement to share prescription data with PMP InterConnect or RxCheck in a manner consistent with California's privacy and security requirements. However, DOJ does currently have a direct interstate data-sharing agreement with the State of Oregon, which allows for prescription data to be shared between CURES and Oregon's PDMP.

SB 497 creates two misdemeanors related to misuse of CURES, prohibits other improper sharing of CURES data, and prohibits DOJ from providing CURES data to out-of-state law enforcement absent a warrant, subpoena, or court order. Specifically, among other things, this bill provides that any person who accesses the CURES database and who is not authorized by law to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor; and provides that any person authorized by law to access the CURES database and who knowingly furnishes the information from the CURES database to a person who is not authorized by law to receive that information is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Status: Chapter 764, Statutes of 2025

SB-571 (Archuleta) - Looting.

During and after the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles County in January 2025, local and national media reported that individuals had been impersonating first responders, firefighters, and disaster relief workers, including FEMA workers, in order to commit crimes in areas affected by the fires. Existing law currently punishes false impersonation of emergency personnel as a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, §§ 538d, 538e, 538f, 538g, & 538h.) This bill increases the penalty for false impersonation of emergency personnel in an evacuation zone to an alternate felony-misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year or for 16 months, two years, or three years.

Additionally, this bill provides that, in sentencing a person convicted of looting, the court may consider the fact, if plead and proven, that the defendant committed the crime while impersonating emergency personnel as a factor in aggravation in sentencing. Existing law states that looting is the commission of specified crimes during a state or local emergency, or in a county that is under an evacuation, and creates penalties in addition to the underlying offense for looting. (Pen. Code, § 463.) Specifically, where the underlying offense is burglary or grand theft, the punishment for looting is an alternate felony-misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year or by imprisonment for 16 months, two years, or three years. (Pen. Code, § 463, subds. (a) & (b).) Subdivision (b) of Penal Code section 1170 provides that the court may not order imposition of the upper term unless an aggravating circumstances have been plead or proven; absent this showing, the sentence may not exceed the middle term. (Pen.

Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(1)-(2).) Thus, under this bill, a person convicted of looting found to have committed the crime while impersonating emergency personnel could be found eligible for the upper term.

Status: Chapter 545, Statutes of 2025

SB-701 (Wahab) - Signal jammers.

Existing law restricts the use of certain devices that interfere with public safety communications and speed detection devices used by law enforcement. The law prohibits a person from unlawfully and maliciously removing, injuring, destroying, damaging, or obstructing the use of any wireless communication device with the intent to prevent the use of the device to summon assistance or notify law enforcement or any public safety agency of a crime. (Pen. Code, § 591.5.) Existing law prohibits any person not authorized by the sender, from intercepting any public safety radio service communication by use of a scanner or any other means, for the purpose of using that communication to assist in the commission of a criminal offense or to avoid or escape arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment or who divulges to any person he or she knows to be a suspect in the commission of any criminal offense, the existence, contents, substance, purport, effect or meaning of that communication concerning the offense with the intent that the suspect may avoid or escape from arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment. (Pen. Code, § 636.5.) Violations of these provisions are misdemeanors. Existing law additionally makes it an infraction for any vehicle to be equipped with, or any person to use, buy, possess, manufacture, sell, or otherwise distribute, any device that is designed for jamming, scrambling, neutralizing, disabling, or otherwise interfering with radar, laser, or any other electronic device used by a law enforcement agency to measure the speed of moving objects. (Veh. Code, § 28150, subds. (a)-(d).)

SB 701 (Wahab) makes it a crime to manufacture, import, market, purchase, sell, or operate a signal jammer, unless authorized to do so by the Federal Communications Commission. Violations of this law are punishable as an infraction for a first offense and a misdemeanor for a second offense. This bill also makes it a misdemeanor to operate a signal jammer in conjunction with the commission of a misdemeanor or felony, punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 or by imprisonment of up to one year in county jail.

Additionally, SB 701 makes it a crime to willfully or maliciously use a signal jammer to block state or local public safety communications, if the person knows or should know that using the signal jammer is likely to result in death or great bodily injury and great bodily injury or death is sustained by any person as a result of that use. It is punishable as a misdemeanor with up to one year in county jail, or as a felony punishable by imprisonment of 16 months, 2 years, or 3 years.

Status: Chapter 458, Statutes of 2025

SB-704 (Arreguín) - Firearms: firearm barrels.

Existing law generally requires the sale or transfer of firearms to be conducted through a licensed firearms dealer. As applicable, "firearm" means a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion and to include the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part. Existing law defines "firearm precursor part" as any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled, or converted. Existing law requires background checks for the acquisition of firearms and firearms precursor parts.

SB 704 (Arreguin) prohibits the sale or transfer of a firearm barrel, as defined, unless the transaction is completed in person by a licensed firearms dealer. This bill defines "firearm barrel" as "the tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile or shot charge is fired. A firearm barrel includes a firearm barrel that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as a firearm barrel, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as a firearm barrel once completed, assembled, or converted. A firearm barrel may have a rifled or smooth bore." Commencing on July 1, 2027, except as specified, this bill requires the licensed firearms dealer to conduct an eligibility check of the purchaser or transferee and to record specified information pertaining to the transaction, including the date of the sale or transfer.

Status: Chapter 591, Statutes of 2025

SB-763 (Hurtado) - Conspiracy against trade: punishment.

The Cartwright Act is an antitrust law that generally prohibits contracts, combinations, and conspiracies in restraint of trade. The law largely regulates trusts, which are defined as "a combination of capital, skill, or acts by two or more persons . . . to create or carry out restrictions in trade or commerce." Existing law punishes corporate violators by a fine that is the greater of an amount not more than $1,000,000 or an amount related to the pecuniary gain from the violation or the pecuniary loss to another by the violation. The law punishes individual violators by imprisonment of one, two, or three years in a state prison or county jail, as specified, imprisonment of not more than one year in a county jail, by a fine of not more than the greater of $250,000, or by both a fine and imprisonment.

SB 763 (Hurtado) increases the maximum fine to $6,000,000 for corporate violators and $1,000,000 for individual violators. This bill additionally imposes an additional civil penalty of $1,000,000 on a person, corporation, or business entity for violating the act, as prescribed.

Status: Chapter 426, Statutes of 2025

Criminal Procedure

AB-321 (Schultz) - Misdemeanors.

Existing law provides that certain crimes may be punishable as either a felony or a misdemeanor and allows a prosecutor to reduce a charge or a court to sentence a defendant to a misdemeanor, even if the case is initially filed as a felony. There are four different times during an adult criminal proceeding where the court or the prosecutor may reduce a charged felony to a misdemeanor. First, a court may reduce a felony to a misdemeanor during the imposition of sentence where the sentence is something other than confinement in state prison or county jail. Second, reduction may occur when the court grants probation to a defendant on a charged felony. Third, a defendant's charge may be reduced to a misdemeanor when the district attorney files a complaint specifying that the offense is a misdemeanor, unless the defendant at the time of arraignment or plea objects to the offense being made a misdemeanor. Finally, a court may reduce a felony to a misdemeanor at or before a preliminary hearing or prior to making a finding holding a defendant over for trial on a felony.

AB 321 (Schultz) authorizes a court, anytime prior to trial, to reduce a felony to a misdemeanor where the charged offense is an alternate felony-misdemeanor either on its own motion or a motion by a party.

Status: Chapter 611, Statutes of 2025

AB-572 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: interrogations.

Recent reports indicate that many law enforcement agencies in California have been trained, in the aftermath of a officer-involved killing, to immediately question family members of the deceased and to refrain from disclosing that such a person was killed, prior to the family members finding out about the death of their deceased family member.

AB 572 (Kalra) requires law enforcement personnel, before any initial formal interview with an immediate family member of the person killed or seriously injured, or upon

confirming the relationship as an immediate family member, to clearly identify themselves. It also requires personnel to inform the person of the status of their family member, if known, including whether the family member has been killed or seriously injured by law enforcement. They also must inform the person that they are conducting a formal interview for the purposes of an investigation, as specified. Finally, they must inform the person that they can have a trusted support person with them, and if the family member is asked to go to a station for a formal interview, they must inform the family member that they have a choice to come to the station and can have a trusted support person with them. These steps are not required if a reasonable officer believes that delay would result in the loss or destruction of evidence or pose an imminent threat to public safety or when the immediate family member has been advised of their constitutional rights against self incrimination, as specified.

Additionally, this bill prohibits a peace officer or prosecuting attorney from employing threats or deception, including knowingly using false information, fabricated evidence, or misleading statements, to coerce an interview or when conducting any interview subject to this bill.

Status: Chapter 697, Statutes of 2025

AB-1036 (Schultz) - Criminal procedure: postconviction discovery.

Existing law requires a court to order that discovery materials be produced to a defendant who has been convicted of a serious or violent felony resulting in a sentence of 15 years or more, upon the prosecution of a postconviction writ of habeas corpus or a motion to vacate a judgment, or in preparation to file that writ or motion, if the defendant has shown a good faith effort to obtain the materials from the criminal defense attorney who represented him or her at the time of the conviction.

AB 1036 (Schultz) authorizes reasonable access, except as specified, to post-conviction discovery materials for felonies resulting in a sentence of incarceration in state prison. This bill additionally requires trial counsel, for all criminal convictions on or after July 1, 2026, that result in a sentence of incarceration in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to retain digital color copies of every item in the file.

According to the author, "By modernizing California's post-conviction discovery laws, AB 1036 enhances fairness in our criminal legal system and helps correct wrongful convictions more efficiently. Providing broader access to evidence will not only prevent innocent individuals from remaining incarcerated but will also strengthen public confidence in the integrity of our legal system. AB 1036 ensures that truth and fairness remain at the core of our system, making California safer and more just for all."

Status: Chapter 444, Statutes of 2025

AB-1071 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

Existing law establishes the Racial Justice Act of 2020 (RJA) and prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction or seeking, obtaining, or imposing a sentence based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. The RJA includes several remedies for a violation of the RJA, including re-sentencing and a dismissal of an enhancement.

AB 1071 (Kalra) amends the RJA by authorizing a defendant to file a motion for disclosure of relevant evidence in any proceeding alleging a violation of the RJA and in preparation for the filing of a motion to vacate or habeas petition based on an RJA violation. This bill also specifies that RJA definitions and legal thresholds apply to motions to vacate and habeas petitions based on an RJA violation; clarifies that habeas counsel shall be appointed if a petitioner unable to afford counsel pleads a plausible allegation of an RJA violation, rather than alleges facts that would establish a violation; requires a prima facie determination in a habeas proceeding be based on the petitioner's showing and the record; and clarifies that if the court finds a violation of the RJA on habeas or a motion to vacate, the court must impose one or more of the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA.

Status: Chapter 721, Statutes of 2025

SB-734 (Caballero) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

The Public Safety Officer Procedural Bill of Rights (POBOR) provides detailed due process rights to local and state peace officers and generally prohibits an employing agency from taking any "punitive" action against a peace officer without providing notice and meaningful opportunity to be heard. (Gov. Code, § 3303, subd. (a).) A punitive action includes any demotion, suspension, reprimand, termination, and, in some cases, transfers.

The Racial Justice Act (RJA) was enacted in 2020. It generally authorizes a criminal defendant to file a motion in court alleging they suffered racial, ethnic, or national origin bias in the charging or sentencing of a defendant. Specifically, the RJA allows bias to be shown by, among other things, statistical evidence that convictions for an offense were more frequently sought or obtained against people who share the defendant's race, ethnicity or national origin than for defendants of other races, ethnicities, or national origins in the county where the convictions were sought or obtained; or longer or more severe sentences were imposed on persons based on their race, ethnicity or national origin or based on the victim's race, ethnicity or national origin. Racial bias may also be shown by evidence that a prosecutor, police officer, expert witness, judge or attorney

associated with the defendant's case exhibited bias towards the defendant; or, in court and during the trial proceedings, used racially discriminatory language or otherwise exhibited bias or animus, based on the defendant's race, ethnicity or national origin. The RJA does not require the discrimination to have been purposeful or to have had a prejudicial impact on the defendant's case.

SB 734 (Caballero) amends the POBOR to prohibit a law enforcement officer from being subject to any punitive action, including reprimand, suspension, demotion, or termination, based on a court finding on a RJA claim.

Status: Chapter 784, Statutes of 2025

Driving Under the Influence

AB-366 (Petrie-Norris) - Ignition interlock devices.

Currently, California operates an ignition interlock device (IID) pilot program that authorizes courts to order the installation of IIDs for first-time DUI offenses that do not cause bodily injury, and requires courts to order IIDs for repeat DUI offenders and DUIs causing bodily injury to another person. (Veh. Code, §§ 23575.3, subd. (h); 13352; 13352.4; 13353.3; 13353.6; & 13353.75.) These provisions are set to sunset on January 1, 2026.

AB 366 (Petrie-Norris) extends the sunset date of the current IID pilot program from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2033.

Status: Chapter 689, Statutes of 2025

AB-1087 (Patterson) - Crimes: vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

AB 1087 provides for a period of probation of between three and five years for vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

Prior to 2021, when a defendant was convicted of a felony, the court could impose a term of probation for up to five years, or no longer than the prison term that could be imposed if the maximum prison term exceeded five years. (Pen. Code, § 1203.1.) In misdemeanor cases, the court could impose a term of probation for up to three years, or no longer than the maximum term of imprisonment if more than three years. (Pen. Code, § 1203a.) AB 1950 (Kamlager), Chapter 328, Statutes of 2020, limited probation to two years for a felony and one year for a misdemeanor, except for "an offense that includes specific probation lengths within its provisions." (Pen. Code, § 1203.1, subd. (l)(1).)

Existing law provides for a period of between three and five years of probation for any person convicted of driving under the influence (DUI). (Veh. Code, § 23600, subd. (b)(1).) However, if the maximum sentence for the offense exceeds five years, the period of probation may be for a longer period but may not exceed the maximum time for which imprisonment could be pronounced. (Ibid.) DUI is a lesser included offense of both vehicular manslaughter and gross vehicular manslaughter. However, there is no specified probation term for the latter crimes. As such, despite being more serious crimes than DUI, the maximum term of probation for both vehicular manslaughter and gross vehicular manslaughter is two years. (See Bowden v. Superior Court (2022) 82 Cal.App.5th 735, 745.) AB 1087 largely aligns the period of probation for vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated with that of DUI.

Status: Chapter 180, Statutes of 2025

Fines and Fees

AB-476 (Mark González) - Metal theft.

Existing law prohibits a dealer or collector of junk, metals, or secondhand materials, from buying or receiving certain materials or metals that they know or reasonably should know is ordinarily used by or ordinarily belongs to a specified public agency, without using due diligence to ascertain that the seller has a legal right to do so. (Pen. Code, § 496a, subd. (a).) A violation of this prohibition is punishable as a misdemeanor by up to one year in county jail, or as a felony punishable by incarceration for 16 months, two years, or three years, or by a fine of not more $1,000. (Ibid.) Additionally, current law prohibits a person who is engaged in the salvage, recycling, purchase, or sale of scrap metal from possessing specified items that were owned or previously owned by a specified public agency that have been stolen or obtained in any manner constituting theft or extortion, knowing the property to be so stolen or obtained, or failing to report possession of the items, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 496e.) This offense is punishable by up to a $3,000 fine, in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

AB 476 (Gonzalez) clarifies and increases the criminal fine that may be imposed on dealers or collectors of junk and metals that buy or receive specified metals that they reasonably should know ordinarily belong to a public agency. Specifically, this bill specifies that a person shall be punished by up to a $1,000 fine if this offense is prosecuted as a misdemeanor, and up to a $5,000 fine if the offense is prosecuted as a jail-eligible felony. This bill expands the list of materials covered by this crime to include reasonably recognizable streetlights, traffic signals, and their reasonably recognizable

equipment, as specified. It also increases the additional maximum fine that may be imposed for this offense from $3,000 to $5,000.

Status: Chapter 694, Statutes of 2025

SB-635 (Durazo) - Food vendors and facilities: enforcement activities.

Existing law allows local authorities to regulate sidewalk vendors and compact mobile food operators in compliance with various requirements. The law allows local authorities to adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place, and manner of sidewalk vending if the requirements are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns. Existing law prohibits various practices when enforcing local ordinances against sidewalk vendors. The law also allows for punishment of a violation of a local authority's sidewalk vending program that complies with defined law only with specific administrative fines.

SB 635 (Durazo) precludes a local authority and its personnel from disclosing or providing in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, personally identifiable information of any sidewalk vendor, except pursuant to a subpoena or a valid judicial warrant. This bill also authorizes the sidewalk vendor or compact mobile food operator to obtain from the local authority a permit for sidewalk vending or a valid business license, provided that the local authority issuing the permit or business license meets specific requirements, including that local authorities shall not inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status or place of birth. SB 635 additionally specifies that any personally identifiable information collected by a local authority under this law shall be exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Among other things, this bill also prohibits 1) using local authority moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for purposes other than those specified; 2) inquiring into an individual's immigration status; 3) placing local authority personnel under the supervision of an agency conducting immigration enforcement, or employ local authority personnel deputized under the authority of an agency conducting immigration enforcement; and 4) using an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement as an interpreter for local authority matters, or use local authorities as interpreters for officers or employees of an agency conducting immigration enforcement.

Status: Chapter 463, Statutes of 2025

SB-763 (Hurtado) - Conspiracy against trade: punishment.

The Cartwright Act is an antitrust law that generally prohibits contracts, combinations, and conspiracies in restraint of trade. The law largely regulates trusts, which are defined as "a combination of capital, skill, or acts by two or more persons . . . to create or carry out restrictions in trade or commerce." Existing law punishes corporate violators by a fine that is the greater of an amount not more than $1,000,000 or an amount related to the pecuniary gain from the violation or the pecuniary loss to another by the violation. The law punishes individual violators by imprisonment of one, two, or three years in a state prison or county jail, as specified, imprisonment of not more than one year in a county jail, by a fine of not more than the greater of $250,000, or by both a fine and imprisonment.

SB 763 (Hurtado) increases the maximum fine to $6,000,000 for corporate violators and $1,000,000 for individual violators. This bill additionally imposes an additional civil penalty of $1,000,000 on a person, corporation, or business entity for violating the act, as prescribed.

Status: Chapter 426, Statutes of 2025

Firearms

AB-383 (Davies) - Firearms: prohibition: minors.

Existing law specifies the grounds upon which a search warrant may be issued, including, among others, the property or things to be seized include a firearm that is owned by, or in the possession of, or in the custody or control of, a person prohibited from owning, possessing, or having the custody and control of a firearm. Existing law prohibits minors from possessing a firearm with defined exceptions. It prohibits a juvenile who is adjudged a ward of the juvenile court due to the commission of specified offenses from owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm. It also requires persons subject to defined prohibitions to relinquish any firearms or ammunition they own, possess, or have under their custody or control and specifies the procedures to be used to relinquish those firearms or ammunition.

AB 383 (Davies) allows a search warrant to be issued when the property or things to be seized include a firearm that is owned by, or in the possession of, or in the custody or control of, a juvenile who is subject to certain firearms prohibitions. It includes "hunting activity or hunting education" as a qualifying exception to the prohibition on minors possessing firearms. It specifies the prohibitions applicable to certain juveniles for owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm or ammunition. And, it clarifies the procedures for relinquishing firearms or ammunition applicable to

juveniles who are prohibited from owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm.

Status: Chapter 362, Statutes of 2025

AB-451 (Petrie-Norris) - Law enforcement policies: restraining orders.

Existing law sets forth firearm relinquishment procedures for specified restraining and protective orders, including domestic violence protective orders (DVROs), gun violence restraining orders (GVROs), civil harassment, workplace violence or postsecondary violence temporary restraining orders and injunctions, elder abuse restraining orders, and protective orders issued during the pendency of criminal proceedings and following specified criminal convictions. (Civ, Pro. Code §§ 527.9, 527.11, 527.12; Fam. Code, §§ 3044, 6389, Pen. Code, §§ 1524, 11108.2, 18120, 18120.5, 25555, 29810, 29830.)

AB 451 (Petrie-Norris) seeks to improve enforcement of California's firearm relinquishment laws by requiring specified state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to develop and adopt policies and standards pertaining to enforcing the firearm relinquishment requirements associated with specified protective and restraining orders. Among other things, this bill 1) requires LEAs to adopt, by January 1, 2027, written policies and standards pertaining to the service of orders that contain firearm relinquishment requirements; 2) requires LEAs to review and update existing protocols, policies, or standards pertaining to such orders, and law enforcement responses to domestic violence incidents; 3) requires the policies to ensure that officers effectuate firearm relinquishment at the time of service; 4) requires the policies to ensure that officers determine if the restrained person possesses other firearms that they have not relinquished; 5) requires the policies to provide a process for identifying restrained persons who are illegally armed; and 6) requires the policies to instruct officers to take specified steps if the agency receives credible information indicating that the restrained person has not relinquished all firearms or other prohibited items, as required.

Status: Chapter 693, Statutes of 2025

AB-584 (Hadwick) - Firearms dealers and manufacturers: secure facilities.

Existing law includes various specifications that firearms dealers and firearms manufacturers must have on their buildings to ensure they are operating out of a secure facility. These provisions include specific requirements for the perimeter doorways of those buildings.

AB 584 (Hadwick) provides for an additionally compliant perimeter doorway, which allows perimeter doors to include a doorway with a windowed or windowless steel door that is equipped with panic hardware that operates a multipoint lock that bolts into the

interior frame of the door. The perimeter door is required to have a latch guard over the bolt closest to the primary locking bolt to protect it from prying or cutting. This bill would additionally mandate covering with steel bars of at least one-half of an inch diameter, or metal grating of at least nine gauge and affixed to the exterior or interior of the door, any windowed door with a window opening of five inches or more.

Status: Chapter 40, Statutes of 2025

AB-1078 (Berman) - Firearms.

Existing law includes numerous provisions regulating firearms. Existing law: 1) authorizes certain individuals to carry a concealed firearm in authorized places, subject to various licensure restrictions, among which are prohibitions against granting licensure to individuals who have been convicted of contempt of court, have been subjected to a restraining order in the past five years, or have been convicted for various crimes; 2) prohibits a person who is licensed to carry a firearm from carrying a firearm in specified places, but exempts a firearm that is secured in a lock box, under certain circumstances, from these prohibitions; 3) prohibits a person from making an application to purchase more than one firearm within any 30-day period; 4) requires a licensed dealer of firearms to conspicuously post a prescribed firearms safety warning message within the licensed premises, including that no person shall make an application to purchase more than one firearm within any 30-day period, and no delivery shall be made to any person making such an application; 5) precludes a person from owning or possessing a firearm if the person has been convicted of specified crimes under federal and state laws; 6) requires a licensing authority to give written notice to an applicant for a concealed carry license, indicating if the license is approved or denied; 7) requires the licensing authority to give this notice within 120 days of receiving the completed application for a new license or 30 days after receipt of specified information and report from the Department of Justice (DOJ), whichever is later, and for a license renewal, the licensing authority has within 120 days of receiving the completed application to give this notice.

AB 1078 (Berman) modifies many provisions relating to firearms. This bill: 1) prohibits a licensing authority from issuing a license if an applicant was convicted under any federal law or law of any other state that includes comparable elements of, contempt of court or specified criminal statutes in the ten years prior to the completed application, was subject to any restraining order, protective order, or other type of court order, or is an unlawful user of, or addicted to, any controlled substance; 2) exempts applicants from the licensure prohibition who were previously subject to a restraining order, protective order, or other type of court order who did not receive notice and an opportunity to be heard before the order was issued; 3) provides for non-California residents to acquire a concealed carry license in California, subject to various requirements; 4) exempts a

firearm that is unloaded and locked in a lock box for the purpose of transporting the firearm from the prohibition on carrying the firearm on a bus, train, or other form of public transportation, including a building, real property, or parking area under the control of a public transportation authority; 5) increases the number of firearms that a person can apply to purchase within any 30-day period from one to three and prohibits delivery of a firearm by a dealer if the dealer is notified by DOJ that the purchaser has made an application to purchase one or more firearms that would result in the purchase of more than three firearms cumulatively within the 30-day period preceding the date of the application; 6) makes the prohibitions against owning or possessing a firearm if the individual has been convicted under certain federal or state laws inapplicable to a conviction for a nonviolent felony under the laws of any other state if the conviction has been vacated, set aside, expunged, or otherwise dismissed and, if the conviction resulted in a firearms prohibition, the conviction relief restored the firearms rights, or if the conviction did not involve the use of a dangerous weapon and the person received a pardon; 7) applies the 120-day notice requirement for a license renewal to a completed application submitted prior to September 1, 2026.

Status: Chapter 570, Statutes of 2025

AB-1127 (Gabriel) - Firearms: converter pistols.

Existing law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer. The law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. Existing law additionally prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun, except as authorized. Under these provisions, “machinegun” is defined as "any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a felony. Existing law also generally makes it a crime to manufacture or sell an unsafe handgun. The Department of Justice is required to compile a roster listing all of the handguns determined not to be unsafe handguns. Criteria are established for determining if a handgun is unsafe, including firearms manufactured after a certain date and not already listed on the roster, handguns without a chamber load indicator, and handguns without a magazine disconnect mechanism.

AB 1127 (Gabriel), beginning July 1, 2026, prohibits a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. This bill would expand the above definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter and prohibit the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter. “Machinegun-convertible pistol” here is defined as "any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger

bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as specified." “Pistol converter” is defined as "any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger." AB 1127 (Gabriel) makes the first violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a second violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by the Department of Justice, and a third violation punishable as a misdemeanor that results in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.

AB 1127 (Gabriel) additionally authorizes exemptions for a pistol to be submitted for testing and added to the roster without meeting certain requirements, if the pistol was listed on the roster on January 1, 2026, was not subject to the above-described requirements to be on the list because it was submitted for testing before specified dates, the pistol is thereafter only modified to change the design features that brought the pistol within the definition of a machinegun-convertible pistol, and the pistol is submitted to an independent certified laboratory for testing pursuant to the above-described testing provisions before January 1, 2027.

Status: Chapter 572, Statutes of 2025

AB-1127 (Gabriel) - Firearms: converter pistols.

Existing law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer. The law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. Existing law additionally prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun, except as authorized. Under these provisions, “machinegun” is defined as "any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a felony. Existing law also generally makes it a crime to manufacture or sell an unsafe handgun. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to compile a roster listing all of the handguns determined not to be unsafe handguns. Criteria are established for determining if a handgun is unsafe, including firearms manufactured after a certain date and not already listed on the roster, handguns without a chamber load indicator, and handguns without a magazine disconnect mechanism.

AB 1127 (Gabriel), beginning July 1, 2026, prohibits a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. This bill expands the above definition of

“machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter and prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter. It makes the first violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a second violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by DOJ, and a third violation punishable as a misdemeanor that results in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.

This bill additionally would authorize exemptions for a pistol to be submitted for testing and added to the roster without meeting certain requirements, if the pistol was listed on the roster on January 1, 2026, was not subject to the above-described requirements to be on the list because it was submitted for testing before specified dates, that is thereafter only modified to change the design features that brought the pistol within the definition of a machinegun-convertible pistol, and that is submitted to an independent certified laboratory for testing pursuant to the above-described testing provisions before January 1, 2027.

Status: Chapter 572, Statutes of 2025

AB-1263 (Gipson) - Firearms: ghost guns.

Existing law prohibits a person, other than a state-licensed firearms manufacturer, from using a computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine or three-dimensional (3D) printer to manufacture a firearm. The law also establishes a firearm industry standard of conduct, which requires a firearm industry member to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls, as defined, and to take reasonable precautions to ensure that the member does not sell, distribute, or provide a firearm-related product, as defined, to a downstream distributor or retailer of firearm-related products who fails to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls. Civil actions are authorized against a person who knowingly distributes or causes to be distributed any digital firearm manufacturing code to any person, except as specified. For these purposes, existing law defines “digital firearm manufacturing code” to mean "any digital instructions in the form of computer-aided design files or other code or instructions that may be used to program a CNC milling machine, a three-dimensional printer, or a similar machine to manufacture or produce a firearm, including a completed frame or receiver or a firearm precursor part." Existing law, subject to exceptions, provides that any person who has been convicted of certain misdemeanors may not, within 10 years of the conviction, own, purchase, receive, possess, or have under their custody or control any firearm and makes a violation of that prohibition a crime.

AB 1263 (Gipson) prohibits a person from knowingly or willfully causing another person

to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms or knowingly or willfully aiding, abetting, prompting, or facilitating the unlawful manufacture of firearms, including the manufacture of any firearm using a 3D printer or CNC milling machine, as specified. The bill would make a violation of these provisions a misdemeanor. This bill additionally updates the definition of "reasonable controls." Reasonable controls is defined as "reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter, as defined, with a firearm." This bill includes computer-aided manufacturing files as a digital instruction and the manufacture or production of a machinegun and specified firearm components, including large-capacity magazines, as part of the definition of "digital firearm manufacturing code." It also authorizes a person who has suffered harm in California as a result of a violation of these provisions to seek compensatory damages and injunctive relief. The bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a person violated the provision of unlawfully distributing or causing to be distributed any digital firearm manufacturing code if the person owns or participates in the management of an internet website that makes digital firearm manufacturing code available for purchase, download, or other distribution to individuals, and the internet website, under the totality of the circumstances, encourages individuals to upload, disseminate, or use digital firearm manufacturing code to manufacture firearms, as specified.

AB 1263 (Gipson) requires, prior to completing the sale or delivery in California or to a California resident of a firearm barrel that is unattached to a firearm, firearm accessory, or a firearm manufacturing machine, that a firearm industry member comply with specified requirements, including providing a prospective purchaser with clear and conspicuous notice that specified conduct is generally a crime in California, including manufacturing firearms to be sold or transferred to an individual without a license to manufacture firearms. This bill modifies the definition of "firearm accessory." Here, firearm accessory is defined as "an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to increase a firearm’s rate of fire or to increase the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine, or any other attachment or device, as described, that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm." This bill also prohibits any person convicted of specified misdemeanor violations, including manufacturing an undetectable firearm or knowingly or willfully causing another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, on or after January 1, 2026, from owning, purchasing, or receiving any firearm within 10 years of the conviction, and makes a violation of that prohibition a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in a county jail or by a fine of up to $1,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Status: Chapter 636, Statutes of 2025

AB-1344 (Irwin) - Restrictions on firearm possession: pilot project.

Existing law provides for the issuance of gun violence restraining orders (GVRO). A GVRO is an order, in writing, signed by the court, prohibiting and enjoining a named person from having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms or ammunition. GVROs can be issued using defined procedures, including but not limited to, an ex parte GVRO and a GVRO with notice and hearing. An ex parte GVRO lasts up to 21 days, whereas a GVRO with notice and hearing lasts between one and five years. Defined individuals may request that a court issue a GVRO.

AB 1344 (Irwin) authorizes the Counties of Alameda, El Dorado, Santa Clara, and Ventura to establish a pilot program to include district attorneys as part of those defined individuals who may petition a court to issue an ex parte GVRO or GVRO after notice and hearing. This bill requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to annually submit specified data to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis, and would authorize the center, commencing July 1, 2027, to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and annually report that evaluation to the Legislature, as specified. The bill also requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to make the data described above available upon request to the Department of Justice and the Judicial Council.

Status: Chapter 573, Statutes of 2025

SB-704 (Arreguín) - Firearms: firearm barrels.

Existing law generally requires the sale or transfer of firearms to be conducted through a licensed firearms dealer. As applicable, "firearm" means a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion and to include the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part. Existing law defines “firearm precursor part” as any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled, or converted. Existing law requires background checks for the acquisition of firearms and firearms precursor parts.

SB 704 (Arreguin) prohibits the sale or transfer of a firearm barrel, as defined, unless

the transaction is completed in person by a licensed firearms dealer. This bill defines "firearm barrel" as "the tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile or shot charge is fired. A firearm barrel includes a firearm barrel that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as a firearm barrel, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as a firearm barrel once completed, assembled, or converted. A firearm barrel may have a rifled or smooth bore." Commencing on July 1, 2027, except as specified, this bill requires the licensed firearms dealer to conduct an eligibility check of the purchaser or transferee and to record specified information pertaining to the transaction, including the date of the sale or transfer.

Status: Chapter 591, Statutes of 2025

Gun Violence Restraining Orders

AB-451 (Petrie-Norris) - Law enforcement policies: restraining orders.

Existing law sets forth firearm relinquishment procedures for specified restraining and protective orders, including domestic violence protective orders (DVROs), gun violence restraining orders (GVROs), civil harassment, workplace violence or postsecondary violence temporary restraining orders and injunctions, elder abuse restraining orders, and protective orders issued during the pendency of criminal proceedings and following specified criminal convictions. (Civ, Pro. Code §§ 527.9, 527.11, 527.12; Fam. Code, §§ 3044, 6389, Pen. Code, §§ 1524, 11108.2, 18120, 18120.5, 25555, 29810, 29830.)

AB 451 (Petrie-Norris) seeks to improve enforcement of California's firearm relinquishment laws by requiring specified state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to develop and adopt policies and standards pertaining to enforcing the firearm relinquishment requirements associated with specified protective and restraining orders. Among other things, this bill 1) requires LEAs to adopt, by January 1, 2027, written policies and standards pertaining to the service of orders that contain firearm relinquishment requirements; 2) requires LEAs to review and update existing protocols, policies, or standards pertaining to such orders, and law enforcement responses to domestic violence incidents; 3) requires the policies to ensure that officers effectuate firearm relinquishment at the time of service; 4) requires the policies to ensure that officers determine if the restrained person possesses other firearms that they have not relinquished; 5) requires the policies to provide a process for identifying restrained persons who are illegally armed; and 6) requires the policies to instruct officers to take specified steps if the agency receives credible information indicating that the restrained person has not relinquished all firearms or other prohibited items, as required.

Status: Chapter 693, Statutes of 2025

AB-1344 (Irwin) - Restrictions on firearm possession: pilot project.

Existing law provides for the issuance of gun violence restraining orders (GVRO). A GVRO is an order, in writing, signed by the court, prohibiting and enjoining a named person from having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms or ammunition. GVROs can be issued using defined procedures, including but not limited to, an ex parte GVRO and a GVRO with notice and hearing. An ex parte GVRO lasts up to 21 days, whereas a GVRO with notice and hearing lasts between one and five years. Defined individuals may request that a court issue a GVRO.

AB 1344 (Irwin) authorizes the Counties of Alameda, El Dorado, Santa Clara, and Ventura to establish a pilot program to include district attorneys as part of those defined individuals who may petition a court to issue an ex parte GVRO or GVRO after notice and hearing. This bill requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to annually submit specified data to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis, and would authorize the center, commencing July 1, 2027, to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and annually report that evaluation to the Legislature, as specified. The bill also requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to make the data described above available upon request to the Department of Justice and the Judicial Council.

Status: Chapter 573, Statutes of 2025

Immigration

SB-281 (Pérez) - Pleas: immigration advisement.

California law requires a court, prior to accepting a plea from a defendant, to advise the defendant of the potential immigration consequences of their guilty plea. (Pen. Code, § 1016.5, subd. (a).) Particularly, the court must administer the following advisement, on the record, to the defendant: "If you are not a citizen, you are hereby advised that conviction of the offense for which you have been charged may have the consequences of deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization pursuant to the laws of the United States." (Ibid.)

SB 281 (Pérez) requires this immigration advisement to be administered verbatim as it appears in the statute. The bill stems from the admitted practice of some courts advising defendants that their plea "will," rather than "may," result in adverse immigration

consequences. Additionally, it specifies that for a plea accepted prior to January 1, 2026, it is not the intent of the Legislature that a court's failure to provide a verbatim immigration advisement, as specified, requires the vacation of judgment and withdrawal of the plea or otherwise constitutes grounds for finding a prior conviction invalid due to a failure to provide the immigration advisement. This does not inhibit a court in the exercise of its discretion, or as otherwise required by law, from vacating a judgment and permitting a defendant to withdraw a plea as otherwise authorized by law.

Status: Chapter 666, Statutes of 2025

SB-627 (Wiener) - Law enforcement: masks.

The uptick in immigration raids under the Trump Administration has been associated with numerous incidents of non-citizens being arrested by masked, non-uniformed, plain clothed immigration officers. Current law does not prohibit peace officers from wearing masks. Rather, peace officers are subject to certain identification requirements. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.)

SB 627 (Wiener) restricts the use of masks by specified California peace officers, as well as federal and out-of-state law enforcement officers. This bill requires a law enforcement agency operating in California, by July 1, 2026, to maintain a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings. This applies to any city, county, or other local law enforcement agency that employs peace officers, any federal law enforcement agency, or any law enforcement agency of another state. This policy must prohibit sworn personnel from using a facial covering when performing their duties, with exemptions for active undercover operations, tactical operations where protective gear is required for physical safety, applicable law governing occupational health and safety and reasonable accommodations, and protection of identity during prosecution. Such a policy shall be deemed consistent with this bill's more general prohibition against law enforcement facial coverings summarized below, unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted to the head of the agency by a member of the public, an oversight body, or a local governing authority, subject to specified procedures.

This bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties. This prohibition applies to a California peace officer employed by a city, county, or other local agency, an officer of a federal law enforcement agency, or an officer of another state. This restriction does not apply to an officer subject to one or more of the above exemptions to the masking policy or specified officers assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team units. A willful and knowing violation of this section is punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor, although this criminal penalty shall not apply to an officer if they were acting in their capacity as an employee of an agency that

posts the written policy required by this bill.

Finally, this bill provides that person who is found to have committed an assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution, while wearing a facial covering in a knowing and willful violation of this section shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability, and shall be liable to that individual for the greater of actual damages or statutory damages of not less than $10,000, whichever is greater.

Status: Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025

SB-635 (Durazo) - Food vendors and facilities: enforcement activities.

Existing law allows local authorities to regulate sidewalk vendors and compact mobile food operators in compliance with various requirements. The law allows local authorities to adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place, and manner of sidewalk vending if the requirements are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns. Existing law prohibits various practices when enforcing local ordinances against sidewalk vendors. The law also allows for punishment of a violation of a local authority's sidewalk vending program that complies with defined law only with specific administrative fines.

SB 635 (Durazo) precludes a local authority and its personnel from disclosing or providing in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, personally identifiable information of any sidewalk vendor, except pursuant to a subpoena or a valid judicial warrant. This bill also authorizes the sidewalk vendor or compact mobile food operator to obtain from the local authority a permit for sidewalk vending or a valid business license, provided that the local authority issuing the permit or business license meets specific requirements, including that local authorities shall not inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status or place of birth. SB 635 additionally specifies that any personally identifiable information collected by a local authority under this law shall be exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Among other things, this bill also prohibits 1) using local authority moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for purposes other than those specified; 2) inquiring into an individual's immigration status; 3) placing local authority personnel under the supervision of an agency conducting immigration enforcement, or employ local authority personnel deputized under the authority of an agency conducting immigration enforcement; and 4) using an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement as an interpreter for local authority matters, or use local authorities as interpreters for officers or employees of an agency

conducting immigration enforcement.

Status: Chapter 463, Statutes of 2025

SB-805 (Pérez) - Crimes.

The uptick in immigration raids under the Trump Administration's immigration has been characterized by numerous incidents of non-citizens being arrested by masked, non-uniformed, plain clothed immigration officers. The prevalence of masked or otherwise unidentified immigration agents makes it easier for members of the public to impersonate ICE officers for the purposes of harassing, intimidating, or otherwise committing violence against the immigrant community. Current law does not prohibit peace officers from wearing masks. Rather, peace officers are subject to certain identification requirements. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.) It is also a crime to impersonate specified persons, including peace officers. (Pen. Code, §§ 538d, subd. (a); 538e, subd. (a); 538h, subd. (a).)

SB 281 (Pérez) requires a law enforcement agency operating in California to maintain and publicly post, by January 1, 2026, a written policy on the visible identification of sworn personnel. This applies to any agency that employs peace officers in California, a law enforcement agency from another state, and any federal law enforcement agency. The policy must require all sworn personnel to visibly display identification when performing specified enforcement duties unless specifically exempted. Such a policy is considered consistent with this bill's more general requirement that law enforcement officers visibly display identification when performing their enforcement duties, as described below, unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted to the head of the agency by a member of the public, an oversight body, or a local governing authority, subject to specified procedures.

This bill also requires, beginning January 1, 2026, a California peace officer and any federal law enforcement officer operating in California that is not uniformed, and therefore is not required to clearly display identification under existing law, to visibly display identification when performing their enforcement duties, except as specified. A willful and knowing violation of this identification requirement is a misdemeanor, although this penalty does not apply to any law enforcement agency, or its personnel, if that agency maintains and publicly posts the written policy required by this bill.

This bill expands the crime of false impersonation of a peace officer to include false impersonation of a law enforcement officer more generally, which includes a peace officer as well as any federal law enforcement officer. It broadens the misdemeanor crime of willfully and credibly impersonating a law enforcement officer, member of the fire department, deputy fire marshal, public utility or district employee, state, county, or

city employee, or search and rescue personnel on an internet website or by other electronic means for the purpose of defrauding another, to include willful and credible impersonations of such persons by any other means. It prohibits an individual authorized to apprehend a bail fugitive from using that position for the purposes of immigration enforcement or from disclosing personally identifiable information of any bail fugitive that is requested for purposes of immigration enforcement, except pursuant to a valid judicial warrant or court order. Finally, it authorizes a California peace officer to request an alleged law enforcement officer, which includes a California peace officer and any federal law enforcement officer, to present identification when there is probable cause or reasonable suspicion to believe the alleged officer committed a crime such as impersonating a peace officer.

Status: Chapter 126, Statutes of 2025

Juveniles

AB-383 (Davies) - Firearms: prohibition: minors.

Existing law specifies the grounds upon which a search warrant may be issued, including, among others, the property or things to be seized include a firearm that is owned by, or in the possession of, or in the custody or control of, a person prohibited from owning, possessing, or having the custody and control of a firearm. Existing law prohibits minors from possessing a firearm with defined exceptions. It prohibits a juvenile who is adjudged a ward of the juvenile court due to the commission of specified offenses from owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm. It also requires persons subject to defined prohibitions to relinquish any firearms or ammunition they own, possess, or have under their custody or control and specifies the procedures to be used to relinquish those firearms or ammunition.

AB 383 (Davies) allows a search warrant to be issued when the property or things to be seized include a firearm that is owned by, or in the possession of, or in the custody or control of, a juvenile who is subject to certain firearms prohibitions. It includes "hunting activity or hunting education" as a qualifying exception to the prohibition on minors possessing firearms. It specifies the prohibitions applicable to certain juveniles for owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm or ammunition. And, it clarifies the procedures for relinquishing firearms or ammunition applicable to juveniles who are prohibited from owning, possessing, or having under their custody or control a firearm.

Status: Chapter 362, Statutes of 2025

AB-651 (Bryan) - Juveniles: dependency: incarcerated parent.

Existing law requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, proceedings terminating their parental rights or seeking to adjudicate the child of a prisoner a dependent child of the court. Existing law prohibits these proceedings from being adjudicated without the physical presence of the parent unless the court receives a knowing waiver from the parent of their right to be physically present at the proceedings, or an affidavit signed by a person in charge of the incarcerating institution that the prisoner does not intend to appear at the proceeding. Existing law authorizes, in the court's discretion, an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present at those proceedings to be given the opportunity to participate remotely.

AB 651 (Bryan) requires notice of, and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present in, specified additional dependency hearings relating to their child. AB 651 additionally requires an incarcerated parent who has waived the right to be physically present to be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings by videoconference, and, if videoconferencing technology is not available, require the use of teleconferencing.

Existing law entitles a minor who is the subject of a juvenile court hearing to be present at that hearing and represented by counsel; and to address the court and participate in the hearing. Existing law generally requires the court to continue the hearing to allow the minor to be present if they were not properly notified or if they wished to present, but were not given the opportunity. AB 651 expands the above provisions, among others, to include nonminor dependents.

Status: Chapter 274, Statutes of 2025

AB-1258 (Kalra) - Deferred entry of judgment pilot program.

Existing law provides that the counties of Alameda, Butte, Napa, Nevada, and Santa Clara may establish a pilot program to operate a deferred entry of judgment pilot program until January 1, 2024 for certain eligible defendants. Existing law also provides that a defendant may participate in a deferred entry of judgment pilot program within the county's juvenile hall if that person is charged with committing a felony offense, except as specified, they plead guilty to the charge or charges, and the probation department determines that the person meets all of the following specified.

AB 1258 (Kalra) extends the deferred entry of judgment pilot program, for the Counties of Butte, Nevada, and Santa Clara, to January 1, 2029, and would require an evaluation of the pilot program's impact and effectiveness in their county.

Status: Chapter 394, Statutes of 2025

AB-1376 (Bonta) - Wards: probation.

Existing law provides that a minor between 12 and 17 years of age, inclusive, who violates any law defining a crime, and a minor under 12 years of age who is alleged to have committed murder or a specified sex offense, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge the minor to be a ward of the court. When a minor is adjudged to be a ward of the court and is placed under the supervision of the probation officer or committed to the care, custody, and control of the probation officer, existing law authorizes the court to make any and all reasonable orders for the conduct of the ward, and to impose and require any and all reasonable conditions that it may determine fitting and proper to the end that justice may be done and the reformation and rehabilitation of the ward enhanced.

Existing law states that the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction over a ward until the person attains 21 years of age, except that if the wardship is based on the commission of a specified serious offense, the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction until age 23, unless the ward would have faced an aggregate sentence of seven years or more in criminal court, in which case the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction until age 25.

AB 1376 (Bonta) limits to 12 months from the most recent disposition hearing the period of time a ward may remain on probation, except that a court may extend the probation period after a noticed hearing and upon proof by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the ward's and the public's best interest. This bill requires the probation agency to submit a report to the court detailing the basis for any request to extend probation at the noticed hearing. It requires the court to hold noticed hearings for the ward not less frequently than every 6 months for the remainder of the wardship period if the court extends probation. It specifies that all of these provisions do not apply to specified wards, including a ward who is serving a custodial commitment to a juvenile hall, juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp. It additionally requires, among other things, that conditions of probation for a ward be individually tailored, developmentally appropriate, and reasonable.

Existing law also authorizes the court, as part of the order adjudging the minor to be a ward of the court, to order the ward to pay restitution, to pay a fine up to $250 for deposit in the county treasury if the court finds the minor has the financial ability to pay, or to participate in an uncompensated work program. AB 1376 removes the authority of the court to order the minor to pay the $250 fine or participate in an uncompensated work program in lieu of restitution.

Status: Chapter 575, Statutes of 2025

SB-19 (Rubio) - Threats: schools and places of worship.

Existing law makes it a crime to willfully threaten to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat that, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby reasonably causes the threatened person to be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of their immediate family, as defined. Under existing law, this crime is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for no more than one year for a misdemeanor, or by imprisonment in state prison for a felony, also known as a "wobbler".

SB 19 makes it a crime for a person to willfully threaten, by any means, including, but not limited to, an image or threat posted or published on an internet web page, to commit a crime at specified locations, including a daycare and workplace, with specific intent that the statement be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, if the threat, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person or persons threatened a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and if the threat causes a person or person to reasonably be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of others at the specified locations. SB 19 makes this crime, for a person 18 years of age or older, punishable as a wobbler. If a person under 18 years of age commits this crime, SB 19 requires the person to be referred to specified services in lieu of being declared a ward of the court, if eligible. If the person is ineligible, the offense is to be punished as a misdemeanor.

Status: Chapter 594, Statutes of 2025

Mental Health

SB-27 (Umberg) - Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.

Existing law, the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, authorizes specified adult persons to petition a civil court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan and implement services, to be provided by county behavioral health agencies, to provide behavioral health care, including stabilization medication, housing, and other enumerated services, to adults who are currently experiencing a severe mental illness and have a diagnosis identified in the disorder class schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, and who meet other specified criteria. Existing law authorizes a specified individual to commence the CARE

process, known as the original petitioner. Existing law authorizes the court to dismiss a case without prejudice when the court finds that a petitioner has not made a prima facie showing that they qualify for the CARE process. Existing law requires the court to take prescribed actions if it finds that a prima facie showing has been made, including, but not limited to, setting the matter for an initial appearance on the petition. Existing law requires the court, if it determines the parties have entered or are likely to enter into a CARE agreement, to either approve or modify the CARE agreement and continue the matter at a progress hearing in 60 days, or continue the matter for 14 days to allow the parties additional time to enter into an agreement.

Existing law prohibits a person from being tried or adjudged to punishment while that person is mentally incompetent. Existing law requires the court to, for a person found mentally incompetent and not charged with certain offenses, among other things, determine whether restoring the person to mental competence is in the interests of justice. Existing law requires the court to, if restoring the person to mental competence is not in the interests of justice, conduct a hearing, as specified, and determine the person's eligibility for diversion. Under existing law, if the court determines, at the first hearing, that the person is ineligible for diversion, the court is required to hold a hearing to determine the person's other options, including the CARE program.

Existing law authorizes a court to refer an individual from, among other things, assisted outpatient treatment or conservatorship proceedings to CARE Act proceedings. Existing law provides that if the individual is referred from assisted outpatient treatment, the county behavioral health director or their designee shall be the petitioner, whereas if the referral is from conservatorship proceedings, the conservator or proposed conservator is the petitioner.

SB 27 (Umberg) allows the court to make a prima facie determination without conducting a hearing. SB 27 would authorize the court, in the first hearing to determine competence to stand trial, to consider the petitioner's eligibility for both diversion and the CARE program. SB 27 authorizes the court to refer the petitioner to the CARE Act court if the defendant or counsel for the defendant agrees to the referral and the court has reason to believe the petitioner may be eligible for the CARE program. If the petitioner is not accepted into the CARE program or if the CARE Act court refers the petitioner back to criminal court, the criminal court would be required to conduct a hearing to determine whether the petitioner is eligible for a diversion program. SB 27 authorizes the county behavioral health agency and jail medical providers to share confidential medical records and other relevant information with the court for the purpose of determining likelihood of eligibility for behavioral health services and programs.

SB 27 authorizes the court to call additional progress hearings after 60 days and also includes persons suffering from bipolar I disorder with psychotic features, except for psychosis related to current intoxication, in the disorder class. SB 27 additionally authorizes a court to refer an individual from felony proceedings to the CARE Act program and authorizes a CARE Act court to consider a referral as a petition for participation in the CARE program if certain requirements are met.

Existing law also requires the Judicial Council to develop a mandatory form for use to file a CARE process petition with the court, and requires the petition to be signed under penalty of perjury and include either an affidavit of a licensed behavioral health professional or evidence that the respondent was detained for a minimum of two intensive treatments. SB 27 additionally includes a nurse practitioner and physician assistant as a licensed behavioral health professional for purposes of individuals authorized to prepare an affidavit supporting a CARE process petition.

Status: Chapter 528, Statutes of 2025

SB-820 (Stern) - Inmates: mental health.

Existing law prohibits a person from being tried or adjudged to punishment while that person is mentally incompetent. Existing law establishes a process by which a defendant's mental competency is evaluated. Existing law, in the case of a misdemeanor charge in which the defendant is found incompetent, requires the court to hold a hearing to determine if the defendant is eligible for diversion. Existing law requires, if the defendant is not eligible for diversion, the court to hold a hearing to determine whether the defendant will be referred to outpatient treatment, conservatorship, or the CARE program, or if the defendant's treatment plan will be modified. Existing law requires the court to dismiss the case if a defendant does not qualify for the above-described services.

Existing law prohibits, except as specified, a person confined in a county jail from being administered any psychiatric medication without prior informed consent. Existing law authorizes a county department of mental health, or other designated county department, to involuntarily administer psychiatric medication to an inmate on a nonemergency basis only after the inmate is provided, among other things, a hearing before a superior court judge, a court-appointed commissioner or referee, or a court-appointed hearing officer. Existing law also provides for the involuntary administration of psychiatric medication to an inmate in an emergency situation. Existing law limits the duration during which an inmate can be involuntarily administered psychiatric medication on an emergency basis and requires that, except as specified, the inmate be provided the same due process protections they would be entitled to when psychiatric

medication is involuntarily administered on a nonemergency basis. Existing law specifies that an emergency exists for these purposes when there is a sudden and marked change in an inmate's mental condition so that action is immediately necessary for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm to the inmate or others and it is impractical, due to the seriousness of the emergency, to first obtain informed consent.

SB 820 (Stern) additionally authorizes, if an individual has been found incompetent to stand trial after having been charged with a misdemeanor, the administration of antipsychotic medication to the individual without their prior informed consent on an emergency basis when treatment is necessary to address the emergency condition and the medication is administered in the least restrictive manner. SB 820 specifies that a determination made pursuant to these provisions is valid for up to 72 hours if the medication is necessary to address the emergency condition, except as provided. This bill requires the court, prior to issuing an involuntary medication order after hearing, to find by clear and convincing evidence that, among other things, a psychiatrist or psychologist has determined that the individual has a serious mental health disorder that can be treated with antipsychotic medication, and there is no less intrusive alternative to the involuntary administration of antipsychotic medication, and involuntary administration of the medication is in the individual's best interest. It requires the court to review that order at least every 60 days and would require the psychiatrist to file an affidavit at that review. It also enumerates certain rights for individuals, prior to the administration of involuntary medication pursuant to these provisions.

Existing law also provides that if a person in charge of a county jail, city jail, or juvenile detention facility, or a judge believes that a person in custody may have a mental health disorder, that person or judge may cause the prisoner to be taken to a facility for 72 hours of treatment and evaluation. SB 820 prohibits certain factors, including the person's temporary access to food, clothing, and shelter, while transferred to a 72-hour facility for treatment and evaluation, from being a basis to conclude that the person is able to provide for their basic personal needs.

Status: Chapter 330, Statutes of 2025

Miscellaneous

AB-247 (Bryan) - Incarcerated individual hand crew members: wages.

Existing law prohibits slavery and provides that involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime. Existing law also provides that a county jail inmate who has completed training for assignment to a conservation camp or to a state or county facility

as an inmate firefighter or who is assigned to a county or state correctional institution as an inmate firefighter and who is eligible to earn day-for-day credits shall instead earn two-for-one credits.

AB 247 (Bryan) requires incarcerated individual hand crew members from county jails and state prison, and youth placed at the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, to be paid an hourly wage of $7.25 while assigned to an active fire incident and to have the wage rate updated on an annual basis.

Status: Chapter 681, Statutes of 2025

Status: Chapter 681, Statutes of 2025

AB-248 (Bryan) - County jails: wages.

Existing law states that the board of supervisors may provide that each prisoner confined in or committed to a county jail shall be credited with a sum not to exceed $2 for each eight hours of work done by the prisoner in such county jail.

AB 248 (Bryan) authorizes the county board of supervisors to determine a wage to be credited to each prisoner if the prisoner is confined in or committed to a county jail and performs a work assignment.

Status: Chapter 252, Statutes of 2025

AB-1108 (Hart) - County officers: coroners: officer-involved deaths.

Existing law bestows counties with discretion to either maintain a combined Sheriff-Coroner office or to abolish the office of the coroner and provide instead for the office of the medical examiner. (Gov. Code, §§ 24010, 24304, 24304.1.) Forty-eight of California's 58 counties have combined Sheriff-Coroner offices, meaning the two offices are consolidated and the sheriff also serves as the coroner.

AB 1108 (Hart), commencing January 1, 2027, prohibits a sheriff-coroner, in any county where the offices of the sheriff and the coroner are combined, from determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of death for any in-custody death, as defined, and instead requires the sheriff-coroner to contract with another county or a private third-party medical examination provider, as specified, to determine the manner, circumstances, and cause of the in-custody death. The contracted coroner, medical examiner, or private third party medical examination provider shall operate independently from the office of the sheriff-coroner, as specified, and the cause and manner of death listed on the death certificate must match the cause and manner of death determined by the coroner, medical examiner, or private third-party medical

examination provider.

Among other things, this bill also requires the county board of supervisors, in a county with a combined Sheriff-Coroner office, to annually select and enter into a service agreement with medical examiners or independent coroner offices from other counties, or with one or more private third-party medical examination providers, or with any combination of these examiners, officers, or providers. Further, it prohibits a third-party medical examination provider that has entered into such a service agreement from, during the term of that agreement, contracting with the county or the sheriff-coroner of that county to provide medical examination for any cases that do not involve in-custody deaths.

Status: Chapter 389, Statutes of 2025

SB-380 (Jones) - Sexually violent predators: transitional housing facilities: report.

Existing law provides for the civil commitment of a person who is determined to be a sexually violent predator (SVP). Existing law establishes a procedure by which a person committed as a SVP may petition for conditional release under the conditional release program, and requires the court, if it makes a specified determination, to place the person on conditional release. Existing law generally requires that a person released on conditional release pursuant to these provisions be placed in the person's county of domicile prior to their incarceration unless extraordinary circumstances exist requiring placement outside the county and notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed placement is given to the designated county of placement, as specified. Existing law requires the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH), or its designee, to consider specified factors when recommending a specific placement for community outpatient treatment, including the concerns and proximity of the victim or the victim's next of kin and the age and profile of the victim or victims in the sexually violent offenses committed by the person subject to placement.

SB 380 (Jones) requires DSH to, on or before January 1, 2027, conduct an analysis of the benefits and feasibility of establishing transitional housing facilities for the conditional release program, and to submit the findings of the analysis in a report to the Legislature.

Status: Chapter 581, Statutes of 2025

SB-857 (Committee on Public Safety) - Public safety omnibus.

Existing law establishes the Board of State and Community Corrections to provide statewide leadership, coordination, and technical assistance to promote effective state

and local efforts and partnerships in California's adult and juvenile criminal justice system. The duties of the board, among others, include establishing standards for local correctional facilities and correctional officers. Under existing law, the board is composed of 15 members, and 7 members constitutes a quorum. SB 857 (Committee on Public Safety) instead requires 8 members to constitute a quorum.

Existing law creates within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation the Prison Industry Authority. SB 857 renames the Prison Industry Authority as the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority, renames the Prison Industry Board as the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Board, renames the Prison Industries Revolving Fund as the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Revolving Fund, and requires that any reference to the Prison Industry Authority be deemed a reference to the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority.

Existing law establishes the jurisdiction of the juvenile court over minors who are between 12 and 17 years of age, who have violated a federal, state, or local law or ordinance, and over minors under 12 years of age who have been alleged to have committed specified crimes. Existing law authorizes a juvenile court to adjudge a person under these circumstances to be a ward of the court. Existing law authorizes the juvenile court to permit a person adjudged a ward of the juvenile court, or placed on probation by the juvenile court, to reside in a county other than their county of legal residence. Existing law authorizes a ward who is permitted to reside in a county other than their county of legal residence to be supervised by the probation officer of the county of actual residence, with the consent of that probation officer. SB 857 clarifies that these provisions apply to wards discharged to probation supervision after having been confined in a secure youth treatment facility, or after having been transferred to a less restrictive program from a secure youth treatment facility.

Existing law authorizes any county or court to implement a "comprehensive collection program" as a separate revenue collection activity, and requires the program to meet certain criteria, one of which is that the program engages in specified activities in collecting fines or penalties, including, among other things, initiating a driver's license suspension or hold. SB 857 deletes initiating suspensions or holds for driver's licenses from the list of activities in which the program may engage.

Various provisions of the Health and Safety Code, Penal Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code, among others, refer to training and other requirements related to "deescalation techniques."
SB 857 revises all references to "deescalation" to "de-escalation."

SB 857 also makes other technical changes, both conforming and nonsubstantive.

Status: Chapter 241, Statutes of 2025

Peace Officer Standards and Training - POST

AB-354 (Michelle Rodriguez) - Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to, among other functions, certify the eligibility of those persons appointed as peace officers throughout the state. Existing law authorizes POST, as specified, to decertify a certified peace officer for engaging in serious misconduct, as specified.

Existing law also requires any agency that employs peace officers to, within 10 days, notify POST of specified occurrences including any complaint, charge, or allegation of serious misconduct by a peace officer employed by that agency and the final disposition of any investigation into that complaint, charge, or allegation, regardless of the discipline actually imposed. Existing law provides that each law enforcement agency shall be responsible for the completion of an investigation into any allegation of serious misconduct by an officer, regardless of the officer's employment status. Existing law establishes the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) within the Department of Justice to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information between law enforcement agencies in the state.

AB 354 (M. Rodriguez) requires POST employees whose job duties require access to criminal offender record information, state summary criminal history information, or information obtained from CLETS to undergo a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history background check, as specified. It also authorizes POST to access information derived from CLETS if POST determines that the information is needed in the course of the commission's duties related to investigating peace officer misconduct and an agency's compliance with regulatory requirements.

Status: Chapter 32, Statutes of 2025

AB-992 (Irwin) - Peace officers.

Existing law requires prospective peace officers to have no more than a high school diploma or GED and complete a certain number of training hours through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). (Gov. Code, § 1031; Pen. Code, § 832, subd. (a).)

AB 992 (Irwin) increases peace officer minimum educational standards by requiring specified peace officers, commencing January 1, 2031, to obtain either an associate′s degree, bachelor′s degree, modern policing degree, or professional policing certificate no later than 36 months after receiving their basic certificate from POST. Under this bill, a modern policing degree must require at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units from an accredited college or university, and a professional policing certificate must require at least 16 semester units or 24 quarter units from an accredited college or university. Coursework completed as part of the POST-certified academy shall count towards the modern policing degree and the professional policing certificate and may count towards an associate or bachelor's degree, although it may not solely satisfy the unit requirement for a professional policing certificate. Certain coursework completed as part of military or law enforcement training by an individual during prior employment in the military or in law enforcement in another state may also count toward the modern policing degree or a professional policing certificate.

Under this bill, an individual with experience (less than eight years) serving in the U.S. Forces or as a sworn peace officer from another state must obtain one of the above degrees or certificates no later than 48 months after receiving their basic certificate from POST. However, an individual with at least eight years of experience as a sworn peace officer from another state and with separation in good standing, or an individual with at least eight years of military service in the U.S. Armed Forces and with an honorable discharge if military service has concluded, is exempt from the above education requirements.

Status: Chapter 175, Statutes of 2025

SB-385 (Seyarto) - Peace officers.

Under existing law, the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (OCCC) is required to report recommendations to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement a modern policing degree program. (Pen. Code, § 13511.1, subd (a).) The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is required to approve and adopt the education criteria for peace officers, based on the recommendations in OCCC report, within two years of the OCCC's submission of the report to the Legislature and in consultation with specified stakeholders. (Pen. Code, § 13511.1, subd (c).) The OCCC report was released in November of 2023, requiring POST to adopt peace officer education criteria by the end of this year.

SB 385 (Seyarto) removes the requirement that POST approve and adopt specified education criteria for peace officers within two years of the OCCC submitting a report to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement a modern policing degree program. It additionally includes an urgency provision to ensure this statutory deadline is removed

in advance of POST's end of year mandate.

Status: Chapter 218, Statutes of 2025

SB-734 (Caballero) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

The Public Safety Officer Procedural Bill of Rights (POBOR) provides detailed due process rights to local and state peace officers and generally prohibits an employing agency from taking any "punitive" action against a peace officer without providing notice and meaningful opportunity to be heard. (Gov. Code, § 3303, subd. (a).) A punitive action includes any demotion, suspension, reprimand, termination, and, in some cases, transfers.

The Racial Justice Act (RJA) was enacted in 2020. It generally authorizes a criminal defendant to file a motion in court alleging they suffered racial, ethnic, or national origin bias in the charging or sentencing of a defendant. Specifically, the RJA allows bias to be shown by, among other things, statistical evidence that convictions for an offense were more frequently sought or obtained against people who share the defendant's race, ethnicity or national origin than for defendants of other races, ethnicities, or national origins in the county where the convictions were sought or obtained; or longer or more severe sentences were imposed on persons based on their race, ethnicity or national origin or based on the victim's race, ethnicity or national origin. Racial bias may also be shown by evidence that a prosecutor, police officer, expert witness, judge or attorney associated with the defendant's case exhibited bias towards the defendant; or, in court and during the trial proceedings, used racially discriminatory language or otherwise exhibited bias or animus, based on the defendant's race, ethnicity or national origin. The RJA does not require the discrimination to have been purposeful or to have had a prejudicial impact on the defendant's case.

SB 734 (Caballero) amends the POBOR to prohibit a law enforcement officer from being subject to any punitive action, including reprimand, suspension, demotion, or termination, based on a court finding on a RJA claim.

Status: Chapter 784, Statutes of 2025

Peace Officers

AB-572 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: interrogations.

Recent reports indicate that many law enforcement agencies in California have been trained, in the aftermath of a officer-involved killing, to immediately question family members of the deceased and to refrain from disclosing that such a person was killed,

prior to the family members finding out about the death of their deceased family member.

AB 572 (Kalra) requires law enforcement personnel, before any initial formal interview with an immediate family member of the person killed or seriously injured, or upon confirming the relationship as an immediate family member, to clearly identify themselves. It also requires personnel to inform the person of the status of their family member, if known, including whether the family member has been killed or seriously injured by law enforcement. They also must inform the person that they are conducting a formal interview for the purposes of an investigation, as specified. Finally, they must inform the person that they can have a trusted support person with them, and if the family member is asked to go to a station for a formal interview, they must inform the family member that they have a choice to come to the station and can have a trusted support person with them. These steps are not required if a reasonable officer believes that delay would result in the loss or destruction of evidence or pose an imminent threat to public safety or when the immediate family member has been advised of their constitutional rights against self incrimination, as specified.

Additionally, this bill prohibits a peace officer or prosecuting attorney from employing threats or deception, including knowingly using false information, fabricated evidence, or misleading statements, to coerce an interview or when conducting any interview subject to this bill.

Status: Chapter 697, Statutes of 2025

AB-847 (Sharp-Collins) - Peace officers: confidentiality of records.

Existing law mandates that a board of supervisors supervise the official conduct of all county officers, but that, in doing so, the board of supervisors shall not obstruct the investigative function of the sheriff of the county nor shall it obstruct the investigative and prosecutorial function of the district attorney of a county. In Los Angeles County, the Civilian Oversight Commission provides ongoing review, analysis and oversight of the Sheriff's Department’s policies, practices and procedures.

AB 847 (Sharp-Collins) grants access to a sheriff oversight board or commission and any office of inspector general, as specified, to peace officer personnel records.

Status: Chapter 383, Statutes of 2025

AB-992 (Irwin) - Peace officers.

Existing law requires prospective peace officers to have no more than a high school diploma or GED and complete a certain number of training hours through the

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). (Gov. Code, § 1031; Pen. Code, § 832, subd. (a).)

AB 992 (Irwin) increases peace officer minimum educational standards by requiring specified peace officers, commencing January 1, 2031, to obtain either an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, modern policing degree, or professional policing certificate no later than 36 months after receiving their basic certificate from POST. Under this bill, a modern policing degree must require at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units from an accredited college or university, and a professional policing certificate must require at least 16 semester units or 24 quarter units from an accredited college or university. Coursework completed as part of the POST-certified academy shall count towards the modern policing degree and the professional policing certificate and may count towards an associate or bachelor's degree, although it may not solely satisfy the unit requirement for a professional policing certificate. Certain coursework completed as part of military or law enforcement training by an individual during prior employment in the military or in law enforcement in another state may also count toward the modern policing degree or a professional policing certificate.

Under this bill, an individual with experience (less than eight years) serving in the U.S. Forces or as a sworn peace officer from another state must obtain one of the above degrees or certificates no later than 48 months after receiving their basic certificate from POST. However, an individual with at least eight years of experience as a sworn peace officer from another state and with separation in good standing, or an individual with at least eight years of military service in the U.S. Armed Forces and with an honorable discharge if military service has concluded, is exempt from the above education requirements.

Status: Chapter 175, Statutes of 2025

AB-1178 (Pacheco) - Peace officers: confidentiality of records.

Under existing law, the personnel records of peace officers are generally confidential and cannot be disclosed. (Pen. Code, § 832.7, subd. (a).) Following recent legislative reforms, certain officer records are now subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA). Disclosable records include those related to incidents involving an officer's discharge of a firearm at a person or an officer's use of force that results in great bodily injury or death, as well as records of sustained findings of specified misconduct. (Pen. Code, § 832.7, subd. (b)(1)(A)-(E).) When such records are subject to disclosure, a law enforcement agency is required to redact those records in certain circumstances, including where there is a specific, articulable, and particularized reason to believe that disclosure of the record would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of the peace officer, custodial officer, or another person. (Pen. Code, § 832.7,

subd. (b)(6).)

AB 1178 (Pacheco) requires a court, in an action to compel disclosure of public records, to consider whether a particular peace officer is currently operating undercover and their duties demand anonymity when determining whether an agency appropriately redacted a disclosable personnel record under the CPRA on the basis that there is a specific, articulable, and particularized reason to believe that disclosure of the record would pose a significant danger to the physical safety of the peace officer, custodial officer, or another person.

Status: Chapter 635, Statutes of 2025

AB-1388 (Bryan) - Law enforcement: settlement agreements.

Recent reports have shone light on the use of “clean-record agreements” between law enforcement agencies and peace officers. An example of such an agreement is a separation agreement between an agency and an officer alleged to have engaged in misconduct, whereby the officer’s employing agency agrees to conceal, destroy, or otherwise refuse to disclose the officer’s misconduct, or even issue the officer a lump sum payment, in exchange for the officer resigning from their position.

AB 1388 (Bryan) prohibits a law enforcement agency from entering into an agreement with a peace officer that requires the agency to destroy, remove, or conceal a record of a misconduct investigation, halt or make particular findings in a misconduct investigation, or otherwise restrict the disclosure of information about an allegation or investigation of misconduct, as specified. Among other things, it also declares any such agreements void and unenforceable, and specifies that such agreements are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Status: Chapter 729, Statutes of 2025

SB-229 (Alvarado-Gil) - Peace officers: deputy sheriffs.

Existing law provides that any deputy sheriff of the Counties of Los Angeles, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba who is employed to perform duties exclusively or initially relating to custodial assignments with responsibilities for maintaining the operations of county custodial facilities, including the custody, care, supervision, security, movement, and transportation of inmates, is a peace officer whose authority extends to any place in California only while engaged in the performance of the duties of his or her respective employment and for the purpose of

carrying out the primary function of employment relating to custodial assignments or when performing other law enforcement duties directed by his or her employing agency during a local state of emergency.

SB 229 (Alvarado-Gil) adds the counties of Amador and Nevada to a list of counties in which deputy sheriffs are considered peace officers. Specifically, this bill states that a deputy sheriff within these counties, who performs duties exclusively or initially related to custodial assignments, are peace officers whose authority extends to any place in California while engaged in the performance of duties related to their employment, including other law enforcement duties directed by the officer's employing agency during a local state of emergency.

Status: Chapter 51, Statutes of 2025

SB-385 (Seyarto) - Peace officers.

Under existing law, the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges (OCCC) is required to report recommendations to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement a modern policing degree program. (Pen. Code, § 13511.1, subd (a).) The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is required to approve and adopt the education criteria for peace officers, based on the recommendations in OCCC report, within two years of the OCCC's submission of the report to the Legislature and in consultation with specified stakeholders. (Pen. Code, § 13511.1, subd (c).) The OCCC report was released in November of 2023, requiring POST to adopt peace officer education criteria by the end of this year.

SB 385 (Seyarto) removes the requirement that POST approve and adopt specified education criteria for peace officers within two years of the OCCC submitting a report to the Legislature outlining a plan to implement a modern policing degree program. It additionally includes an urgency provision to ensure this statutory deadline is removed in advance of POST's end of year mandate.

Status: Chapter 218, Statutes of 2025

SB-459 (Grayson) - Peace officers: confidential communications: group peer support services.

Existing law authorizes a local or regional law enforcement agency to establish a peer support and crisis referral program to provide employee support and referral services for issues relating to substance abuse and critical incident stress, among other types of issues. (Gov. Code, § 8669.2, subds. (a) & (b).) Certain communications by law enforcement personnel participating in peer support services are confidential. Particularly, law enforcement personnel have the right to refuse to disclose, and to

prevent another from disclosing, a confidential communication between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member made while the peer support team member was providing peer support services. (Gov. Code, § 8669.4, subd. (a).)

SB 459 (Grayson) expands the confidentiality protections available to law enforcement members that are participating in peer support services in two ways. First, it expands the right of law enforcement personnel to refuse to disclose, and prevent another from disclosing, a confidential communication between the law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member made while the peer support team member was providing peer support services, by specifying that this right applies to confidential communications made between that law enforcement personnel and a peer support team member during group peer support services. Second, this bill applies peer support service confidentiality protections not only to communications between a peer support team member and a recipient officer, but also to those communications between different recipients of group peer support services that occur within the confines of group sessions. It also clarifies that confidential communications may be disclosed in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Status: Chapter 456, Statutes of 2025

SB-524 (Arreguín) - Law enforcement agencies: artificial intelligence.

Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have begun using a new generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) technology that assists officers with drafting police reports. This technology utilizes software that is linked to body cameras to upload and transcribe footage to generate police reports in a matter of minutes. Current law does not restrict the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in conjunction with the production of police reports.

SB 524 (Arreguín) establishes guidelines and transparency surrounding AI-generated police reports. The bill's most notable provisions include requiring every LEA to maintain a policy to require an official report prepared by a law enforcement officer that is generated using AI, either fully or partially, to contain specified disclaimers that the report utilized AI as well as the signature of the officer that prepared the official report; and requiring, when a law enforcement officer uses AI to create an official report, that the first draft of the report be retained by the agency for as long as the official report is retained. The bill specifies that except for the official report, a draft of any report created with the use of AI shall not constitute an officer's statement. It also requires the agency utilizing AI to generate a first draft or official report to maintain a specified audit trail for as long as the official report is retained. Lastly, it prohibits a contracted vendor from sharing, selling, or otherwise using information provided by an LEA to be processed by AI, except as specified.

Status: Chapter 587, Statutes of 2025

SB-627 (Wiener) - Law enforcement: masks.

The uptick in immigration raids under the Trump Administration has been associated with numerous incidents of non-citizens being arrested by masked, non-uniformed, plain clothed immigration officers. Current law does not prohibit peace officers from wearing masks. Rather, peace officers are subject to certain identification requirements. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.)

SB 627 (Wiener) restricts the use of masks by specified California peace officers, as well as federal and out-of-state law enforcement officers. This bill requires a law enforcement agency operating in California, by July 1, 2026, to maintain a written policy regarding the use of facial coverings. This applies to any city, county, or other local law enforcement agency that employs peace officers, any federal law enforcement agency, or any law enforcement agency of another state. This policy must prohibit sworn personnel from using a facial covering when performing their duties, with exemptions for active undercover operations, tactical operations where protective gear is required for physical safety, applicable law governing occupational health and safety and reasonable accommodations, and protection of identity during prosecution. Such a policy shall be deemed consistent with this bill's more general prohibition against law enforcement facial coverings summarized below, unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted to the head of the agency by a member of the public, an oversight body, or a local governing authority, subject to specified procedures.

This bill also prohibits a law enforcement officer from wearing a facial covering that conceals or obscures their facial identity in the performance of their duties. This prohibition applies to a California peace officer employed by a city, county, or other local agency, an officer of a federal law enforcement agency, or an officer of another state. This restriction does not apply to an officer subject to one or more of the above exemptions to the masking policy or specified officers assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team units. A willful and knowing violation of this section is punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor, although this criminal penalty shall not apply to an officer if they were acting in their capacity as an employee of an agency that posts the written policy required by this bill.

Finally, this bill provides that person who is found to have committed an assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution, while wearing a facial covering in a knowing and willful violation of this section shall not be entitled to assert any privilege or immunity for their tortious conduct against a claim of civil liability, and shall be liable to that individual for the greater of actual damages or

statutory damages of not less than $10,000, whichever is greater.

Status: Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025

SB-734 (Caballero) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

The Public Safety Officer Procedural Bill of Rights (POBOR) provides detailed due process rights to local and state peace officers and generally prohibits an employing agency from taking any “punitive” action against a peace officer without providing notice and meaningful opportunity to be heard. (Gov. Code, § 3303, subd. (a).) A punitive action includes any demotion, suspension, reprimand, termination, and, in some cases, transfers.

The Racial Justice Act (RJA) was enacted in 2020. It generally authorizes a criminal defendant to file a motion in court alleging they suffered racial, ethnic, or national origin bias in the charging or sentencing of a defendant. Specifically, the RJA allows bias to be shown by, among other things, statistical evidence that convictions for an offense were more frequently sought or obtained against people who share the defendant’s race, ethnicity or national origin than for defendants of other races, ethnicities, or national origins in the county where the convictions were sought or obtained; or longer or more severe sentences were imposed on persons based on their race, ethnicity or national origin or based on the victim’s race, ethnicity or national origin. Racial bias may also be shown by evidence that a prosecutor, police officer, expert witness, judge or attorney associated with the defendant’s case exhibited bias towards the defendant; or, in court and during the trial proceedings, used racially discriminatory language or otherwise exhibited bias or animus, based on the defendant’s race, ethnicity or national origin. The RJA does not require the discrimination to have been purposeful or to have had a prejudicial impact on the defendant’s case.

SB 734 (Caballero) amends the POBOR to prohibit a law enforcement officer from being subject to any punitive action, including reprimand, suspension, demotion, or termination, based on a court finding on a RJA claim.

Status: Chapter 784, Statutes of 2025

SB-805 (Pérez) - Crimes.

The uptick in immigration raids under the Trump Administration’s immigration has been characterized by numerous incidents of non-citizens being arrested by masked, non-uniformed, plain clothed immigration officers. The prevalence of masked or otherwise unidentified immigration agents makes it easier for members of the public to impersonate ICE officers for the purposes of harassing, intimidating, or otherwise committing violence against the immigrant community. Current law does not prohibit

peace officers from wearing masks. Rather, peace officers are subject to certain identification requirements. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.) It is also a crime to impersonate specified persons, including peace officers. (Pen. Code, §§ 538d, subd. (a); 538e, subd. (a); 538h, subd. (a).)

SB 281 (Pérez) requires a law enforcement agency operating in California to maintain and publicly post, by January 1, 2026, a written policy on the visible identification of sworn personnel. This applies to any agency that employs peace officers in California, a law enforcement agency from another state, and any federal law enforcement agency. The policy must require all sworn personnel to visibly display identification when performing specified enforcement duties unless specifically exempted. Such a policy is considered consistent with this bill's more general requirement that law enforcement officers visibly display identification when performing their enforcement duties, as described below, unless a verified written challenge to its legality is submitted to the head of the agency by a member of the public, an oversight body, or a local governing authority, subject to specified procedures.

This bill also requires, beginning January 1, 2026, a California peace officer and any federal law enforcement officer operating in California that is not uniformed, and therefore is not required to clearly display identification under existing law, to visibly display identification when performing their enforcement duties, except as specified. A willful and knowing violation of this identification requirement is a misdemeanor, although this penalty does not apply to any law enforcement agency, or its personnel, if that agency maintains and publicly posts the written policy required by this bill.

This bill expands the crime of false impersonation of a peace officer to include false impersonation of a law enforcement officer more generally, which includes a peace officer as well as any federal law enforcement officer. It broadens the misdemeanor crime of willfully and credibly impersonating a law enforcement officer, member of the fire department, deputy fire marshal, public utility or district employee, state, county, or city employee, or search and rescue personnel on an internet website or by other electronic means for the purpose of defrauding another, to include willful and credible impersonations of such persons by any other means. It prohibits an individual authorized to apprehend a bail fugitive from using that position for the purposes of immigration enforcement or from disclosing personally identifiable information of any bail fugitive that is requested for purposes of immigration enforcement, except pursuant to a valid judicial warrant or court order. Finally, it authorizes a California peace officer to request an alleged law enforcement officer, which includes a California peace officer and any federal law enforcement officer, to present identification when there is probable cause or reasonable suspicion to believe the alleged officer committed a crime such as

impersonating a peace officer.

Status: Chapter 126, Statutes of 2025

Post Conviction Relief

AB-812 (Lowenthal) - Recall and resentencing: incarcerated firefighters.

Existing law authorizes a court, on its own motion within 120 days of the date of the defendant's commitment, or at any time if the applicable sentencing laws have changed or upon a recommendation from the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the Board of Parole Hearings, or the district attorney, to recall a defendant's sentence and resentence that defendant to a lesser sentence.

Existing law establishes the California Conservation Camps for the purpose of having incarcerated persons work on projects supervised by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Existing law requires CDCR to utilize incarcerated persons assigned to conservation camps in performing fire prevention, fire control, and other work.

AB 812 (Lowenthal) requires CDCR, no later than July 1, 2027, to promulgate regulations, as specified, regarding the referral of participants in the California Conservation Camp program and incarcerated persons working at institutional firehouses for resentencing.

Status: Chapter 712, Statutes of 2025

AB-1071 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: discrimination.

Existing law establishes the Racial Justice Act of 2020 (RJA) and prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction or seeking, obtaining, or imposing a sentence based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. The RJA includes several remedies for a violation of the RJA, including re-sentencing and a dismissal of an enhancement.

AB 1071 (Kalra) amends the RJA by authorizing a defendant to file a motion for disclosure of relevant evidence in any proceeding alleging a violation of the RJA and in preparation for the filing of a motion to vacate or habeas petition based on an RJA violation. This bill also specifies that RJA definitions and legal thresholds apply to motions to vacate and habeas petitions based on an RJA violation; clarifies that habeas counsel shall be appointed if a petitioner unable to afford counsel pleads a plausible allegation of an RJA violation, rather than alleges facts that would establish a violation; requires a prima facie determination in a habeas proceeding be based on the

petitioner’s showing and the record; and clarifies that if the court finds a violation of the RJA on habeas or a motion to vacate, the court must impose one or more of the applicable remedies outlined in the RJA.

Status: Chapter 721, Statutes of 2025

Restitution

AB-1213 (Stefani) - Restitution: priority.

The California Constitution guarantees victims the right to restitution. Specifically, Article I, Section 28 of the California Constitution provides that, in order to preserve and protect a victim’s rights to justice and due process, a victim shall be entitled specified rights, including restitution. It also states that it is the unequivocal intention of the People of the State of California that all persons who suffer losses as a result of criminal activity shall have the right to seek and secure restitution from the persons convicted of the crimes causing the losses they suffer. And, it provides that restitution shall be ordered from the convicted wrongdoer in every case, regardless of the sentence or disposition imposed, in which a crime victim suffers a loss.

AB 1213 (Stefani) clarifies a restitution order be paid before all fines, restitution fines, penalty assessments, and other fees on a criminal defendant, as specified.

According to the bill's sponsor, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, " The California's Constitution enshrines the rights of victims of crime in California. Among those is the right to receive restitution and that 'all monetary payments, monies, and properties collected from any person who has been ordered to make restitution shall be first applied to pay the amounts ordered as restitution to the victim.' However, our Penal Code has yet to carry that constitutional command into practice. AB 1213 will make clear that victims in California remain at the forefront of our consideration and will statutorily mandate that victim restitution orders have priority over any fines, fees, or penalty assessments imposed in conjunction with a criminal conviction."

Status: Chapter 184, Statutes of 2025

AB-1376 (Bonta) - Wards: probation.

Existing law provides that a minor between 12 and 17 years of age, inclusive, who violates any law defining a crime, and a minor under 12 years of age who is alleged to have committed murder or a specified sex offense, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge the minor to be a ward of the court. When a minor is adjudged to be a ward of the court and is placed under the supervision of the probation

officer or committed to the care, custody, and control of the probation officer, existing law authorizes the court to make any and all reasonable orders for the conduct of the ward, and to impose and require any and all reasonable conditions that it may determine fitting and proper to the end that justice may be done and the reformation and rehabilitation of the ward enhanced.

Existing law states that the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction over a ward until the person attains 21 years of age, except that if the wardship is based on the commission of a specified serious offense, the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction until age 23, unless the ward would have faced an aggregate sentence of seven years or more in criminal court, in which case the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction until age 25.

AB 1376 (Bonta) limits to 12 months from the most recent disposition hearing the period of time a ward may remain on probation, except that a court may extend the probation period after a noticed hearing and upon proof by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the ward's and the public's best interest. This bill requires the probation agency to submit a report to the court detailing the basis for any request to extend probation at the noticed hearing. It requires the court to hold noticed hearings for the ward not less frequently than every 6 months for the remainder of the wardship period if the court extends probation. It specifies that all of these provisions do not apply to specified wards, including a ward who is serving a custodial commitment to a juvenile hall, juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp. It additionally requires, among other things, that conditions of probation for a ward be individually tailored, developmentally appropriate, and reasonable.

Existing law also authorizes the court, as part of the order adjudging the minor to be a ward of the court, to order the ward to pay restitution, to pay a fine up to $250 for deposit in the county treasury if the court finds the minor has the financial ability to pay, or to participate in an uncompensated work program. AB 1376 removes the authority of the court to order the minor to pay the $250 fine or participate in an uncompensated work program in lieu of restitution.

Status: Chapter 575, Statutes of 2025

Restraining Orders

AB-394 (Wilson) - Public transportation providers.

Under existing law, battery of specified transportation officials is punishable by up to one year in county jail, a $10,000 fine, or both. (Pen. Code, § 243.3.) In contrast, ordinary battery is punishable by up to six months in county jail. (Pen. Code, §§ 242 &

243, subd. (a).) The elevated criminal penalties apply to assault and battery on operators, drivers, or passengers on a bus, taxicab, streetcar, cable car, trackless trolley, or other motor vehicle, including a vehicle operated on stationary rails or on a track or rail suspended in the air, used for the transportation of persons for hire, or against a school-bus driver, station agent or ticket agent for the entity providing the transportation. (Pen. Code, § 243.3.)

AB 394 (Wilson) expands the heightened criminal penalties that apply to a person that commits battery against certain transit workers to include battery against a public transportation provider, or employees and contractors of a public transportation provider. Additionally, it clarifies, declaratory of existing law, that an "employer," for the purpose of when an employer may seek a specified workplace restraining order on behalf of an employee, includes a joint powers authority or a public transit operator, as specified, and that "unlawful violence," for the purpose of when an employer may seek such an order, includes any violation of the crime of battery of specified transit officials.

Status: Chapter 147, Statutes of 2025

AB-451 (Petrie-Norris) - Law enforcement policies: restraining orders.

Existing law sets forth firearm relinquishment procedures for specified restraining and protective orders, including domestic violence protective orders (DVROs), gun violence restraining orders (GVROs), civil harassment, workplace violence or postsecondary violence temporary restraining orders and injunctions, elder abuse restraining orders, and protective orders issued during the pendency of criminal proceedings and following specified criminal convictions. (Civ, Pro. Code §§ 527.9, 527.11, 527.12; Fam. Code, §§ 3044, 6389, Pen. Code, §§ 1524, 11108.2, 18120, 18120.5, 25555, 29810, 29830.)

AB 451 (Petrie-Norris) seeks to improve enforcement of California’s firearm relinquishment laws by requiring specified state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to develop and adopt policies and standards pertaining to enforcing the firearm relinquishment requirements associated with specified protective and restraining orders. Among other things, this bill 1) requires LEAs to adopt, by January 1, 2027, written policies and standards pertaining to the service of orders that contain firearm relinquishment requirements; 2) requires LEAs to review and update existing protocols, policies, or standards pertaining to such orders, and law enforcement responses to domestic violence incidents; 3) requires the policies to ensure that officers effectuate firearm relinquishment at the time of service; 4) requires the policies to ensure that officers determine if the restrained person possesses other firearms that they have not relinquished; 5) requires the policies to provide a process for identifying restrained persons who are illegally armed; and 6) requires the policies to instruct officers to take specified steps if the agency receives credible information indicating that the restrained

person has not relinquished all firearms or other prohibited items, as required.

Status: Chapter 693, Statutes of 2025

AB-1344 (Irwin) - Restrictions on firearm possession: pilot project.

Existing law provides for the issuance of gun violence restraining orders (GVRO). A GVRO is an order, in writing, signed by the court, prohibiting and enjoining a named person from having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms or ammunition. GVROs can be issued using defined procedures, including but not limited to, an ex parte GVRO and a GVRO with notice and hearing. An ex parte GVRO lasts up to 21 days, whereas a GVRO with notice and hearing lasts between one and five years. Defined individuals may request that a court issue a GVRO.

AB 1344 (Irwin) authorizes the Counties of Alameda, El Dorado, Santa Clara, and Ventura to establish a pilot program to include district attorneys as part of those defined individuals who may petition a court to issue an ex parte GVRO or GVRO after notice and hearing. This bill requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to annually submit specified data to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis, and would authorize the center, commencing July 1, 2027, to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and annually report that evaluation to the Legislature, as specified. The bill also requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to make the data described above available upon request to the Department of Justice and the Judicial Council.

Status: Chapter 573, Statutes of 2025

Sex Offenses

AB-848 (Soria) - Sexual battery.

Existing law prohibits the touching of any intimate part of another person for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse, under specified circumstances, including if the victim is unconscious of the nature of the act because the perpetrator fraudulently represented that the touching served a professional purpose. A violation of these provisions is punishable as a misdemeanor or as a felony by imprisonment in the state prison for 2, 3, or 4 years, and by a fine not exceeding $10,000. Existing law requires, in the case of a felony conviction for a violation of these provisions, the fact that the defendant was an employer and the victim was an employee of the defendant to be a factor in aggravation in sentencing.

AB 848 (Soria) requires, in the case of a felony conviction for a violation of these provisions, the fact that the defendant was employed at a hospital where the offense occurred and the victim was in the defendant's care or seeking medical care at the hospital to be a factor in aggravation in sentencing.

Status: Chapter 625, Statutes of 2025

SB-258 (Wahab) - Crimes: rape.

In 2021, the Legislature passed AB 1171 (C. Garcia, Ch. 626, Stats. 2021), which repealed the stand-alone spousal rape statute (Pen. Code, § 262) and expanded the definition of rape (Pen. Code, § 261) to include the rape of a spouse in all but one circumstance. The expanded version of the rape statute maintained a limited exemption for the act of sexual intercourse with a spouse who is incapable of giving "legal consent" or having the capacity to consent because of a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability. (Pen. Code, § 261, subd. (a)(1).)

SB 258 (Wahab) expands the circumstances under which sexual intercourse with a spouse is rape, to include where a spouse is incapable of giving "legal consent" due to a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability.

Status: Chapter 599, Statutes of 2025

SB-680 (Rubio) - Sex offender registration: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor.

Existing law, the Sex Offender Registration Act (the act), requires a person convicted of specified crimes to register with law enforcement as a sex offender while residing in California or while attending school or working in California, as specified. Existing law establishes three tiers of registration based on specified criteria, for periods of at least 10 years, at least 20 years, and life, respectively, for a conviction of specified sex offenses. Existing law exempts from mandatory registration under the act a person convicted of certain offenses involving minors if the person is not more than 10 years older than the minor and if that offense is the only one requiring the person to register. A willful failure to register, as required by the act, is a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the underlying offense.

SB 680 (Rubio) requires offenders convicted of engaging in an act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor who is more than 3 years younger than the offender or, if the offender was 21 years of age or older, engaging in an act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor who is under 16 years of age, if the offense occurred on or after January 1, 2026, to register for 10 years as a tier one offender under the act, unless the offender

was not more than 10 years older than the minor and if that offense is the only one requiring the offender to register.

Status: Chapter 780, Statutes of 2025

Status: Chapter 780, Statutes of 2025

SB-733 (Wahab) - Sexual assault forensic evidence: testing.

California established the Sexual Assault Victims' DNA Bill of Rights in 2003. Upon the request of the survivor, law enforcement agencies investigating the sexual assault must inform the survivor of the status of the DNA testing. Specifically, the California DNA Bill of Rights provides that survivors have a right to be informed whether or not the assailant's DNA profile was developed from the rape kit or other crime scene evidence, whether or not that profile was uploaded to the DNA database and whether or not a hit resulted from the upload. In November 2022, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the launch of a new online portal to allow survivors of sexual assault to track the status of their sexual assault evidence kits and the hiring of the state’s first-ever sexual assault evidence outreach coordinator to work directly with law enforcement, medical facilities, and other partner organizations to support local efforts to track and process sexual assault evidence.

SB 733 (Wahab) authorizes a sexual assault victim who is 18 years of age or older to request that all medical evidence collected from them not be tested; the victim may later request that their kit be tested, regardless of whether they also decide to make a report to law enforcement.

Status: Chapter 783, Statutes of 2025

Theft

AB-476 (Mark González) - Metal theft.

Existing law prohibits a dealer or collector of junk, metals, or secondhand materials, from buying or receiving certain materials or metals that they know or reasonably should know is ordinarily used by or ordinarily belongs to a specified public agency, without using due diligence to ascertain that the seller has a legal right to do so. (Pen. Code, § 496a, subd. (a).) A violation of this prohibition is punishable as a misdemeanor by up to one year in county jail, or as a felony punishable by incarceration for 16 months, two years, or three years, or by a fine of not more $1,000. (Ibid.) Additionally, current law prohibits a person who is engaged in the salvage, recycling, purchase, or sale of scrap metal from possessing specified items that were owned or previously owned by a

specified public agency that have been stolen or obtained in any manner constituting theft or extortion, knowing the property to be so stolen or obtained, or failing to report possession of the items, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 496e.) This offense is punishable by up to a $3,000 fine, in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

AB 476 (Gonzalez) clarifies and increases the criminal fine that may be imposed on dealers or collectors of junk and metals that buy or receive specified metals that they reasonably should know ordinarily belong to a public agency. Specifically, this bill specifies that a person shall be punished by up to a $1,000 fine if this offense is prosecuted as a misdemeanor, and up to a $5,000 fine if the offense is prosecuted as a jail-eligible felony. This bill expands the list of materials covered by this crime to include reasonably recognizable streetlights, traffic signals, and their reasonably recognizable equipment, as specified. It also increases the additional maximum fine that may be imposed for this offense from $3,000 to $5,000.

Status: Chapter 694, Statutes of 2025

AB-486 (Lackey) - Crimes: burglary tools.

Existing law makes the possession of certain tools, such as a picklock or a screwdriver, with intent to feloniously break or enter into a specified building or vehicle, a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in county jail, a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both. (Pen. Code, §§ 19 & 466.) Similarly, it is a misdemeanor to knowingly make, alter, or attempt to make or alter such tools so that they will fit or open the lock of such a structure or vehicle without being requested to do so by a person with a right to open the lock of such a structure or vehicle. (Ibid.)

AB 486 (Lackey) adds key programming devices, key duplicating devices, and signal extenders to the list of prohibited tools encompassed by the above offenses. For the purpose of this bill, a ″key programming device″ or ″key duplicating device″ means any device with the capability to access a vehicle′s onboard computer to allow additional keys to be made, delete keys, or remotely start the vehicle without the use of any key. A key duplicating device includes a device with the ability to capture a key code or signal in order to remotely access a vehicle. A ″signal extender″ means a key fob amplifier or other device that extends the signal range of a keyless entry car fob to send a coded signal to a receiver in a vehicle to lock, unlock, access a vehicle, start the engine, or interact with other remote commands associated to the vehicle′s onboard computer.

Status: Chapter 367, Statutes of 2025

SB-276 (Wiener) - City and County of San Francisco: merchandising sales.

Existing law authorizes local authorities such as cities and counties to regulate sidewalk vendors, subject to specified conditions. (Gov. Code, § 51038, subds. (a) & (b).) A violation of such a local sidewalk vending program may not be punished as an infraction or misdemeanor (Gov. Code, § 51039, subd. (d).)

SB 276 (Wiener) seeks to address the illegal resale of goods on the streets by authorizing San Francisco to impose criminal penalties on sidewalk vendors that sell specified merchandise without a permit. First, it authorizes San Francisco to adopt an ordinance requiring a permit for the sale, on public property, including public streets or sidewalks, of merchandise that San Francisco has determined is a "common target of retail theft." This does not apply to food items prepared on-site or prepackaged. Second, it provides that in order to receive a permit from the administering permitting agency an applicant must prove that they obtained the merchandise lawfully and not through theft or extortion. Finally, this bill authorizes a written warning for a first time violation; an infraction for a second or third violation within eighteen months of the first violation; and a wobblette punishable as either an infraction or misdemeanor with up to six months in county jail, or both that fine an imprisonment, for subsequent violations after three prior violations.

Status: Chapter 406, Statutes of 2025

SB-571 (Archuleta) - Looting.

During and after the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles County in January 2025, local and national media reported that individuals had been impersonating first responders, firefighters, and disaster relief workers, including FEMA workers, in order to commit crimes in areas affected by the fires. Existing law currently punishes false impersonation of emergency personnel as a misdemeanor. (Pen. Code, §§ 538d, 538e, 538f, 538g, & 538h.) This bill increases the penalty for false impersonation of emergency personnel in an evacuation zone to an alternate felony-misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year or for 16 months, two years, or three years.

Additionally, this bill provides that, in sentencing a person convicted of looting, the court may consider the fact, if plead and proven, that the defendant committed the crime while impersonating emergency personnel as a factor in aggravation in sentencing. Existing law states that looting is the commission of specified crimes during a state or local emergency, or in a county that is under an evacuation, and creates penalties in addition to the underlying offense for looting. (Pen. Code, § 463.) Specifically, where the underlying offense is burglary or grand theft, the punishment for looting is an alternate felony-misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year or by

imprisonment for 16 months, two years, or three years. (Pen. Code, § 463, subds. (a) & (b).) Subdivision (b) of Penal Code section 1170 provides that the court may not order imposition of the upper term unless an aggravating circumstances have been plead or proven; absent this showing, the sentence may not exceed the middle term. (Pen. Code, § 1170, subd. (b)(1)-(2).) Thus, under this bill, a person convicted of looting found to have committed the crime while impersonating emergency personnel could be found eligible for the upper term.

Status: Chapter 545, Statutes of 2025

Vehicles

AB-366 (Petrie-Norris) - Ignition interlock devices.

Currently, California operates an ignition interlock device (IID) pilot program that authorizes courts to order the installation of IIDs for first-time DUI offenses that do not cause bodily injury, and requires courts to order IIDs for repeat DUI offenders and DUIs causing bodily injury to another person. (Veh. Code, §§ 23575.3, subd. (h); 13352; 13352.4; 13353.3; 13353.6; & 13353.75.) These provisions are set to sunset on January 1, 2026.

AB 366 (Petrie-Norris) extends the sunset date of the current IID pilot program from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2033.

Status: Chapter 689, Statutes of 2025

SB-635 (Durazo) - Food vendors and facilities: enforcement activities.

Existing law allows local authorities to regulate sidewalk vendors and compact mobile food operators in compliance with various requirements. The law allows local authorities to adopt additional requirements regulating the time, place, and manner of sidewalk vending if the requirements are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns. Existing law prohibits various practices when enforcing local ordinances against sidewalk vendors. The law also allows for punishment of a violation of a local authority's sidewalk vending program that complies with defined law only with specific administrative fines.

SB 635 (Durazo) precludes a local authority and its personnel from disclosing or providing in writing, verbally, or in any other manner, personally identifiable information of any sidewalk vendor, except pursuant to a subpoena or a valid judicial warrant. This bill also authorizes the sidewalk vendor or compact mobile food operator to obtain from the local authority a permit for sidewalk vending or a valid business license, provided

that the local authority issuing the permit or business license meets specific requirements, including that local authorities shall not inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status or place of birth. SB 635 additionally specifies that any personally identifiable information collected by a local authority under this law shall be exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Among other things, this bill also prohibits 1) using local authority moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for purposes other than those specified; 2) inquiring into an individual's immigration status; 3) placing local authority personnel under the supervision of an agency conducting immigration enforcement, or employ local authority personnel deputized under the authority of an agency conducting immigration enforcement; and 4) using an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement as an interpreter for local authority matters, or use local authorities as interpreters for officers or employees of an agency conducting immigration enforcement.

Status: Chapter 463, Statutes of 2025

SB-701 (Wahab) - Signal jammers.

Existing law restricts the use of certain devices that interfere with public safety communications and speed detection devices used by law enforcement. The law prohibits a person from unlawfully and maliciously removing, injuring, destroying, damaging, or obstructing the use of any wireless communication device with the intent to prevent the use of the device to summon assistance or notify law enforcement or any public safety agency of a crime. (Pen. Code, § 591.5.) Existing law prohibits any person not authorized by the sender, from intercepting any public safety radio service communication by use of a scanner or any other means, for the purpose of using that communication to assist in the commission of a criminal offense or to avoid or escape arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment or who divulges to any person he or she knows to be a suspect in the commission of any criminal offense, the existence, contents, substance, purport, effect or meaning of that communication concerning the offense with the intent that the suspect may avoid or escape from arrest, trial, conviction, or punishment. (Pen. Code, § 636.5.) Violations of these provisions are misdemeanors. Existing law additionally makes it an infraction for any vehicle to be equipped with, or any person to use, buy, possess, manufacture, sell, or otherwise distribute, any device that is designed for jamming, scrambling, neutralizing, disabling, or otherwise interfering with radar, laser, or any other electronic device used by a law enforcement agency to measure the speed of moving objects. (Veh. Code, § 28150, subds. (a)-(d).)

SB 701 (Wahab) makes it a crime to manufacture, import, market, purchase, sell, or

operate a signal jammer, unless authorized to do so by the Federal Communications Commission. Violations of this law are punishable as an infraction for a first offense and a misdemeanor for a second offense. This bill also makes it a misdemeanor to operate a signal jammer in conjunction with the commission of a misdemeanor or felony, punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 or by imprisonment of up to one year in county jail.

Additionally, SB 701 makes it a crime to willfully or maliciously use a signal jammer to block state or local public safety communications, if the person knows or should know that using the signal jammer is likely to result in death or great bodily injury and great bodily injury or death is sustained by any person as a result of that use. It is punishable as a misdemeanor with up to one year in county jail, or as a felony punishable by imprisonment of 16 months, 2 years, or 3 years.

Status: Chapter 458, Statutes of 2025

Victims

AB-572 (Kalra) - Criminal procedure: interrogations.

Recent reports indicate that many law enforcement agencies in California have been trained, in the aftermath of a officer-involved killing, to immediately question family members of the deceased and to refrain from disclosing that such a person was killed, prior to the family members finding out about the death of their deceased family member.

AB 572 (Kalra) requires law enforcement personnel, before any initial formal interview with an immediate family member of the person killed or seriously injured, or upon confirming the relationship as an immediate family member, to clearly identify themselves. It also requires personnel to inform the person of the status of their family member, if known, including whether the family member has been killed or seriously injured by law enforcement. They also must inform the person that they are conducting a formal interview for the purposes of an investigation, as specified. Finally, they must inform the person that they can have a trusted support person with them, and if the family member is asked to go to a station for a formal interview, they must inform the family member that they have a choice to come to the station and can have a trusted support person with them. These steps are not required if a reasonable officer believes that delay would result in the loss or destruction of evidence or pose an imminent threat to public safety or when the immediate family member has been advised of their constitutional rights against self incrimination, as specified.

Additionally, this bill prohibits a peace officer or prosecuting attorney from employing

threats or deception, including knowingly using false information, fabricated evidence, or misleading statements, to coerce an interview or when conducting any interview subject to this bill.

Status: Chapter 697, Statutes of 2025

AB-1213 (Stefani) - Restitution: priority.

The California Constitution guarantees victims the right to restitution. Specifically, Article I, Section 28 of the California Constitution provides that, in order to preserve and protect a victim's rights to justice and due process, a victim shall be entitled specified rights, including restitution. It also states that it is the unequivocal intention of the People of the State of California that all persons who suffer losses as a result of criminal activity shall have the right to seek and secure restitution from the persons convicted of the crimes causing the losses they suffer. And, it provides that restitution shall be ordered from the convicted wrongdoer in every case, regardless of the sentence or disposition imposed, in which a crime victim suffers a loss.

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Status: Chapter 184, Statutes of 2025

AB-1239 (Dixon) - Human trafficking: data.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) currently provides information about human trafficking, including national rates of trafficking. Human trafficking includes both labor trafficking and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The existing DOJ website on human trafficking discusses the California law on trafficking and explains the different types of trafficking covered by both state and federal law

AB 1239 (Dixon) requires the DOJ to include in the information made available on the OpenJustice Web portal information concerning arrests for human trafficking and the

number of individuals reported as a victim of human trafficking, as specified, through the California Incident-Based Reporting System.

Status: Chapter 393, Statutes of 2025

SB-221 (Ochoa Bogh) - Crimes: stalking.

Existing law states a defendant may be convicted of stalking for willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly following or willfully and maliciously harassing another person and making a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear for their safety or the safety of their immediate family. Existing law defines "credible threat" to mean, among other things, a verbal, or written threat, or a threat implied by a pattern of conduct. It is not necessary to prove that the defendant had the intent to actually carry out the threat, but rather that the defendant intended to place the person targeted by the threat in reasonable fear for their safety or the safety of their immediate family.

SB 221 (Ochoa Bogh) expands the definition of "credible threats" in the crime of stalking to include threats to the safety of a victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse.

Status: Chapter 576, Statutes of 2025

SB-258 (Wahab) - Crimes: rape.

In 2021, the Legislature passed AB 1171 (C. Garcia, Ch. 626, Stats. 2021), which repealed the stand-alone spousal rape statute (Pen. Code, § 262) and expanded the definition of rape (Pen. Code, § 261) to include the rape of a spouse in all but one circumstance. The expanded version of the rape statute maintained a limited exemption for the act of sexual intercourse with a spouse who is incapable of giving "legal consent" or having the capacity to consent because of a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability. (Pen. Code, § 261, subd. (a)(1).)

SB 258 (Wahab) expands the circumstances under which sexual intercourse with a spouse is rape, to include where a spouse is incapable of giving "legal consent" due to a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability.

Status: Chapter 599, Statutes of 2025

SB-733 (Wahab) - Sexual assault forensic evidence: testing.

California established the Sexual Assault Victims' DNA Bill of Rights in 2003. Upon the request of the survivor, law enforcement agencies investigating the sexual assault must inform the survivor of the status of the DNA testing. Specifically, the California DNA Bill of Rights provides that survivors have a right to be informed whether or not the

assailant's DNA profile was developed from the rape kit or other crime scene evidence, whether or not that profile was uploaded to the DNA database and whether or not a hit resulted from the upload. In November 2022, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the launch of a new online portal to allow survivors of sexual assault to track the status of their sexual assault evidence kits and the hiring of the state's first-ever sexual assault evidence outreach coordinator to work directly with law enforcement, medical facilities, and other partner organizations to support local efforts to track and process sexual assault evidence.

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Status: Chapter 783, Statutes of 2025