Commission on State Mandates
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11/02/2026

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26-LDM-08

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RE: Legislatively Determined Mandate
State Public Defender: county public defenders: data collection
(Assembly Bill 2605; Statutes 2026, Chapter 629)

Dear Director Stephenshaw and Executive Director Gmur:

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), a statewide association of California's rural counties, hereby requests to initiate a Joint Request for Legislatively Determined Mandate (LDM) pursuant to Government Code section 17573 regarding the above-captioned statute.

The Department of Finance, in its August 3, 2026, bill analysis (attached), opposed the bill because it "may create a potentially significant state-reimbursable mandate."

By copy of this letter to the Commission on State Mandates, RCRC requests acknowledgement that the statute of limitations to file a test claim is tolled as of the date of this notice pursuant to Government Code section 17573, subdivision (b). While this matter is pending, RCRC or the Department of Finance shall notify the Commission of actions taken as set forth below, in accordance with subdivision (g) of Section 17573:

- Provide the Commission with a copy of any communications regarding development of a joint request under this section and a copy of a joint request when it is submitted to the Legislature.
- Notify the Commission of the date of (A) the Legislature's action on a joint request in the Budget Act, or (B) the Department's decision not to submit a joint request.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the next steps in the LDM process.

Very truly yours,

TAYLOR W. KAYATTA, Deputy General Counsel
Rural County Representatives of California

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 07/02/2026
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2605
AUTHOR: Arambula, Joaquin

BILL SUMMARY: State Public Defender: county public defenders: data collection.

This bill, subject to an appropriation, requires that, for counties with an established office of the public defender, the board of supervisors collect information on public defense services provided by the county and submit that information to the Office of the State Public Defender every two years, beginning January 1, 2029.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Office of the State Public Defender indicates that any costs resulting from this bill are minor and absorbable.

To the extent there is an appropriation and the bill's provisions become operative, this bill may create a state-reimbursable mandate because it requires a new program or higher level of service to be provided by local agencies for counties to collect information on public defense services provided and to report that data to the State Public Defender.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it may create a potentially significant state-reimbursable mandate.

Existing law authorizes county board of supervisors to establish the office of public defender and allow mutual assistance agreements with other county public defender offices or the State Public Defender.

Chapter 583, Statutes of 2021 (AB 625), required the State Public Defender, in consultation with the California Public Defenders Association and other subject matter experts, to complete a study to analyze and determine appropriate workloads for public defenders throughout the state. AB 625 also required the State Public Defender to submit their findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2024. The 2022 Budget Act included $1 million one-time General Fund to implement AB 625 and support this study to assess appropriate workload for public defenders and indigent defense attorneys.

Upon appropriation, this bill requires county board of supervisors to collect specified information on public defense services and report that information to the Office of the State Public Defender. This bill also requires the State Public Defender to create and post on its website a summary report of the information reported to it.

Analyst/Principal (242) Romine, Jessie	Date	Program Budget Manager Jarvis, Amy	Date
Department Deputy Director			Date
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED) **Form DF-43**

AUTHOR	**AMENDMENT DATE**	**BILL NUMBER**
Arambula, Joaquin	07/02/2026	AB 2605

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) (Dollars in Thousands) 2026-2027	FC	2027-2028	FC	2028-2029	Fund Code
8140/Pub Defend	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001
8885/Comm St Mndt	SO	No	C	150-300	C	150-300	C	150-300	0001

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On November 9, 2026, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated November 5, 2026**
- **Notice of Receipt of Letter of Intent to Initiate a Joint Request for a Legislatively Determined Mandate and Tolling of the Statute of Limitations issued November 9, 2026**
- **Letter of Intent to Initiate a Joint Request for a Legislatively Determined Mandate filed by the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) on November 2, 2026**

  State Public Defender: County Public Defenders: Data Collection, 26-LDM-08
  Statutes 2026, Chapter 629 (AB 2605)
  Rural County Representatives of California, Requester

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on November 9, 2026 at Sacramento, California.

Jill Magee

_____

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Commission on State Mandates
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COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 11/5/26

Claim Number: 26-LDM-08

Matter: State Public Defender: County Public Defenders: Data Collection

Requester: Rural County Representatives of California

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

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