Commission on State Mandates
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26-LDM-17

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RE: Legislatively Determined Mandate
County of Riverside: separation of county offices: in-custody reports
(Senate Bill 1379; Statutes 2026, Chapter 1031)

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 5, 2026, bill analysis (attached), opposed the bill "because it may generate significant annual General Fund costs by creating a new 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: 06/23/2026
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 1379
AUTHOR: Cervantes, Sabrina

BILL SUMMARY: County of Riverside: separation of county offices: in-custody reports.

This bill requires the board of supervisors for the County of Riverside to separate the offices of sheriff and coroner by January 1, 2027, and to transition medicolegal death investigation services to an independent medical examiner model under the coroner's office.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Finance anticipates this bill may create a state-reimbursable mandate because it requires a new program or higher level of service to be provided by the County of Riverside. The extent to which Riverside County would incur increased costs is unknown, but potentially significant.

COMMENTS

Finance is opposed to this bill because it may generate significant annual General Fund costs by creating a new state-reimbursable mandate.

Existing law authorizes the board of supervisors of a county to consolidate or separate the duties of various county offices in various combinations, including combining the duties of the sheriff and the coroner.

This bill requires the board of supervisors for the County of Riverside to separate the offices of sheriff and coroner by July 1, 2027. The bill also prohibits anyone other than the coroner or a medical examiner from signing death certificates or postmortem examination documents. The language specifies details requiring the county to publish in-custody death incident reports within 24 hours and preliminary reports within 72 hours. It also requires the county to notify next of kin of the cause of death within 72 hours of its determination and maintain a centralized public database of in-custody death data.

According to the author's office, this bill is a response to improve oversight and accountability in Riverside County after a series of inconsistencies regarding the deaths of individuals in custody in the county's jails raised concerns about underreporting, inconsistent determinations of causes of death, limited access to information for families and the public.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SOLACORV	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) (Dollars in Thousands) PROP 98	FC	2026-2027	FC	2027-2028	FC	2028-2029	Fund Code

Analyst/Principal David Ton/Chris Hill	Date	Program Budget Manager Nguyen, Rosanna	Date
Department Deputy Director			Date
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved Position Disapproved

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**

  County of Riverside: Separation of County Offices: In-Custody Reports,
  26-LDM-17
  Statutes 2026, Chapter 1031 (SB 1379)
  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

Mailing List

Last Updated: 11/5/26

Claim Number: 26-LDM-17

Matter: County of Riverside: Separation of County Offices: In-Custody Reports

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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