



Senate Bill 621

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program

SUMMARY

SB 621 will allow counties to apply for funds from the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant Program to be used in diversion programs in an effort to provide a cost-effective strategy to reduce the rate of recidivism and re-incarceration of mentally ill offenders. This will grant an alternative treatment option for offenders with a mental illness and it also furthers prison realignment efforts.

ISSUE

The Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program supports the implementation and evaluation of locally developed demonstration projects designed to reduce recidivism among persons with mental illness.

The MIOCR Grant Program recognizes the cooperation between law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and other agencies is critical to improve California's response to mentally ill offenders. Projects are to be collaborative and address locally identified gaps in jail and community-based services for persons with a serious mental illness.

In an effort to reinvest in treatment and prevention at the local level, SB 621 promotes cost-effective approaches to meet the long-term needs of adults and juveniles with mental disorders who are offenders. This bill will give counties the resources they need to divert mentally ill low-level offenders to treatment rather than jail, with follow-up services for those released from jail to keep them from reoffending.

SB 621 (HERTZBERG)

SB 621 will expand the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program to allow funding to be used for diversion programs to offer appropriate mental health and treatment services.

SUPPORT

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (Sponsor)
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy-California Division
American Civil Liberties Union of California (ACLU)
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
California District Attorneys Association
California Medical Association
California Mental Health Directors Association
California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association



California State Association of Counties

Contra Costa County

County of Los Angeles

County of Marin Board of Supervisors

County Welfare Directors Association

Chief Probation Officers

Disability Rights California

Fraternal Order of Police

Long Beach Police Officers Association

Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association

Santa Ana Police Officers Association

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