



## **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 District Attorney (Sponsor)  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy-California Division  
American Civil Liberties Union of California (ACLU)  
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice  
California Catholic Conference of Bishops  
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 Professional Firefighters  
California Public Defenders Association  
California State Association of Counties  
Chief Probation Officers  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
County of Marin Board of Supervisors  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Crime Victims Action Alliance  
Disability Rights California  
Fraternal Order of Police, California State Lodge  
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
Long Beach Police Officers Association  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)  
NAMI- San Joaquin County  
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association  
Santa Ana Police Officers Association