



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** April 21, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact: Clare Tobin, Legislative Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** Support for AB 2257 - County Departments of Corrections and Rehabilitation

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Adopt a position to support Assembly Bill 2257, which would allow any County Board of Supervisors to create a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and shift authority over county jails from the Sheriff to the Department, pursuant to the Legislative Program Committee recommendation; and
- b. Find that the proposed action is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a project under CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR 15378(b)(5).

**Summary Text:**

At its April 6, 2026 meeting, the Legislative Program Committee recommended that the Board support Assembly Bill (AB) 2257, authored by Assembly Member Gregg Hart, which would allow any Board of Supervisors to create a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and shift authority over county jails from the Sheriff to the Department. This bill aligns broadly with the principle of Local Control in the County Legislative Platform, by restoring authority that counties had prior to 1993 to make their own determination on creating these departments. However, because the bill does not

fit clearly within the specific language of the Platform and because of the significance of the bill, it merits consideration by the Board.

**Discussion:**

*Provisions*

AB 2257 includes the following key provisions:

- Authorizes counties to establish a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation through action by the Board of Supervisors.
- Allows counties that create a department to transfer responsibility for county jail operations from the elected sheriff to the new department.
- Requires analysis and findings before establishing a department, including justification for the change in governance.
- Establishes minimum qualifications, duties, and responsibilities for the director of a department.
- May result in organizational, fiscal, and operational changes for counties that choose to implement the new structure.
- Effective January 1, 2027.

*Purpose*

The purpose of the legislation, according to the author, is as follows:

- “Assembly Bill 2257 will restore the ability of counties to appoint an official other than the sheriff to operate the jail system. This bill provides county governments with greater leverage to advance needed jail policy changes aimed at saving lives and safeguarding taxpayer dollars.
- The bill specifically provides a pathway for a county to create a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to operate the local jail system, and specifies the qualifications for the director of such a system.
- This bill does not require counties to change their jail governance structure, but rather encourages accountability and results by ensuring that county leaders have local discretion to ensure safe, effective, and responsible jail operations.”

*Connection to County Legislative Platform*

The 2026 County Legislative Platform includes the principle of Local Control: “The County supports local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies, and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies that are responsive to the community’s preferences.” AB 2257 would restore authority that counties previously had, prior to 1993, to create correctional departments that are separate from Sheriff oversight. The Platform also emphasizes reducing recidivism and strengthening behavioral health and supportive services for justice-involved individuals.

Because the bill does not fit clearly within the specific language of the Platform and because of the significance of the bill, the full Board should provide direction to staff and legislative advocates on whether to support the bill.

### *Status*

AB 2257 was introduced in 2026 and is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety on April 14, 2026. If amendments are made to the bill, the draft support letter (Attachment A) may require updates.

### *County Action*

On April 6, 2026, the Legislative Program Committee voted to support this and refer it to the full Board of Supervisors for a vote. If the bill passes, the Board would need to consider whether they could create a new department and shift authority immediately or if they would need to wait until after the current term of the elected sheriff.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Action on this item today will have no financial impact. If AB 2257 becomes law, the Board could decide to create a County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and shift the authority to oversee county jails from the Sheriff to the Department. If the Board makes that decision, the County could experience upfront costs for administrative reorganization but may also realize long-term efficiencies and cost-savings. Detailed analysis would need to be performed prior to any future Board decision, should the legislation pass.

### **Special Instructions:**

None

### **Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Draft Letter of Support - AB 2257 - County Departments of Corrections

**Attachment B** – AB 2257 - Author Fact Sheet

### **Contact Information:**

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