



® March 27, 2017

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The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 931 (Hertzberg) – Conservatorships: custody status.
As Amended on March 19, 2018 – SUPPORT
Hearing Date: April 3, 2018 - Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Skinner,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of Senate Bill 931 (Hertzberg), which amends the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to specify that custody status cannot be used as the sole reason to postpone the psychiatric conservatorship evaluation process.

Due to a longstanding and chronic shortage of psychiatric treatment resources, individuals suffering from a severe mental illness may be booked into county jail upon a criminal offense simply because there are no immediate alternatives for their placement. Under existing law and practice, these individuals often find themselves confined in the county jail for substantial periods of time, and are not evaluated for conservatorship status and appropriate treatment options until the conclusion of their criminal case. Delaying conservatorship evaluations often has the effect of keeping these persons in custody longer than necessary. Senate Bill 931 seeks to address this issue by prohibiting a conservatorship investigator from failing to schedule an investigation based solely upon the custody status of the individual.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports Senate Bill 931. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at jdevencenzi@counties.org or (916) 650-8131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Devencenzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Devencenzi
Senior Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Bob Hertzberg, California State Senate
Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Stella Choe, Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus