



® March 11, 2019

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The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 597 (Levine) – Probation and mandatory supervision: flash incarceration.  
As Introduced February 14, 2019 – SUPPORT  
Set to be heard March 19, 2019 in the Assembly Public Safety Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of Assembly Bill 597 by Assembly Member Marc Levine. This measure would extend the sunset of the use of flash incarceration until January 1, 2026.

As part of 2011 Public Safety Realignment, probation departments were given the authority to use intermediate sanctions such as flash incarceration. Flash incarceration is a period of detention in county jail triggered by a violation of a condition of probation. The length of the detention period can range from one to ten consecutive days. Intermediate sanctions, like flash incarceration, balance the need to hold offenders accountable for violations of their conditions of supervision while focusing on shorter disruptions from work, home, or programing which can result from longer term formal revocations.

While the authority to use flash for realigned offenders was provided under AB 109 Realignment, the statute did not equally afford this authority for offenders on felony probation or Mandatory Supervision. So, in 2015, Senate Bill 266 (Block) established the authorization of flash incarceration as an evidence-based approach to violations of supervision for people on traditional felony probation and Mandatory Supervision. SB 266 included a sunset of January 1, 2020. AB 597 would extend the authority of county probation departments to continue to use flash incarceration for offenders until January 1, 2026. Absent flash incarceration as an intermediate response to violations, the existing mechanism to address violations of probation is to initiate formal revocation court proceedings which is a much lengthier process and can result in custody time up to 180 days.

It is for these reasons, that CSAC supports AB 597 and respectfully requests your **AYE** vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916.650.8131 or [jdevencenzi@counties.org](mailto:jdevencenzi@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Devencenzi'.

Jessica Devencenzi  
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Marc Levine, California State Assembly  
Members and Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus