



2025 New Laws and Legislation Overview

Every year, the California Legislature and the United States Congress pass several changes to state and federal law that affect survivors, advocates, and their communities. 2025 was the beginning of a two-year legislative session for California. Below is a summary of federal and California bills that VALOR tracked.

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Federal Legislation

HR 28 (Stuebe – R, FL)

- Amends Title IX to prohibit transgender and gender nonconforming individuals from participating in the sport that aligns with their gender.
- Status: Passed the House

HR 30 (Mace – R, SC)

- Increases the crimes that would deport immigrants to include domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, and sexual assault.
- Status: Passed the House

HR 32 (LaLota – R, NY)

- Block distribution of federal funds to cities and localities that have elected to limit the role federal immigrant enforcement plays in their communities.
- Status: Introduced

HR 909 (Wagner – R, MO)

- Take excess funding from the False Claims Act and direct the funding towards the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) to support the slow decline of funding collected by the CVF to fund Victims of Crime Act grant programs.
- Status: Introduced

*Note: Has since passed the House in 2026

State Legislation

AB 22 (DeMaio – R, 75)

- The Sex Offender Registration Act requires a person convicted of one of certain crimes, as specified, to register with law enforcement as a sex offender while residing in California or while attending school or working in California, as specified. A willful failure to register, as required by the act, is a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the underlying offense. Current law exempts a person convicted of certain offenses involving a minor from mandatory registration under the act if, at the time of the offense, the person is not more than 10 years older than the minor and if that offense is the only one requiring the person to register. This bill would repeal that exemption
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 250 (Aguiar-Curry – D, 4)

- Extends the revival period of civil claims of sexual assault and harassment against entities or agencies that attempted to cover up the sexual misconduct that would otherwise be barred prior to January 1, 2026, due to the expiring statute of limitations.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

AB 285 (Ramos – D, 45)

- Require the court to issue a 180-day protective order when an individual who has caused sexual harm is released from a CDCR facility or county jail.
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 379 (Schultz – D, 44)

- Criminalizes loitering with the intent to purchase sex.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

AB 419 (Connolly – D, 12)

- Requires schools to post information related to immigration enforcement and individual rights in administrative buildings and on school websites.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

AB 464 (Aguiar-Curry – D, 4)

- Increase the civil statute of limitations for incarcerated survivors of staff sexual misconduct from 2 years to 4 years upon release and place a 90-day window to prevent staff retaliation.
- Status: 2-year bill

State Legislation, Continued

AB 470 (McKinnor– D, 61)

- Removes AT&T as the carrier of last resort in California.
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 551 (Krell– D, 6)

- Establish the Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program, which would expand and improve access to reproductive healthcare in emergency departments across the state.
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 561 (Quirk-Silva– D, 67)

- Allows for the submission of a temporary restraining order electronically and allows any court appearance following the submission to be done electronically.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

AB 848 (Soria – D, 27)

- In the case of a felony conviction for a violation of sexual misconduct, where the person who caused harm works at a hospital and the person who was harmed was under their care to be a factor in aggravation in sentencing.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

AB 878 (Kalra – D, 25)

- Require landlords to make reasonable accommodations to living arrangements for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, such as changing locks and reassigning parking spaces, upon the request of the survivor.
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 938 (Bonta – D, 18)

- Consider an individual's past as a survivor of crime when determining sentencing.
- Status: 2-year bill

AB 969 (Rodriguez, C. – D, 43)

- Requires counties to waive California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program welfare-to-work requirements for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2028

AB 1231 (Elhawary – D, 57)

- Grant judges the opportunity to offer diversion to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence for non-violent felony offenses.
- Status: 2-year bill

State Legislation, Continued

SB 221 (Ochoa-Bogh – R, 19)

- Expands the current definition of stalking to include stalking of individual's pets, service animals, or emotional support animals.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 258 (Wahab – D, 10)

- Updates the definition of spousal rape to a person with a developmental or physical disability to align with stranger rape.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 311 (Grove – R, 12)

- Would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a secure facility at each women's prison to separately house transgender women.
- Status: 2-year bill

SB 337 (Menjivar – D, 20)

- Would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop policies and procedures around deactivating body-worn cameras during specified confidential interactions and would require documentation of the time and reason for deactivation.
- Status: 2-year bill

SB 551 (Cortese – D, 15)

- Directs the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to maintain a mission statement consistent with the principles of normalization and dynamic security, and would require the department to facilitate access for community-based programs to enter facilities.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 642 (Límon – D, 21)

- Makes updates to the California Fair Pay Act to insure the language is gender inclusive and requires the definition of "wages" to include equity compensations such as stock options.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

State Legislation, Continued

SB 680 (Rubio – D, 22)

- Require individuals to join the registry as a tier 1 offender upon conviction of child sexual abuse where the age difference is 10 years or more.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 683 (Cortese – D, 15)

- A party seeking relief pursuant to the misuse of another's name, voice, signature, photo, or likeness can also request a temporary restraining order that would require compliance within 2 business days.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 733 (Wahab – D, 10)

- Authorizes a survivor of sexual assault to request that their forensic kit not be tested for DNA and not be reported to law enforcement.
*Note: this only applies to VAWA exams.
- Status: Signed by the Governor
- Effective: January 1, 2026

SB 841 (Rubio – D, 22)

- Prohibit immigration enforcement from entering private areas of rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, human trafficking centers, and family justice centers without a valid ID and a signed judicial warrant.
- Status: 2-year bill

SB 850 (Ashby - D, 8)

- Would require an employee of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation who has been convicted of sexual assault of an incarcerated individual to forfeit all rights and benefits in the public retirement system.
- Status: 2-year bill

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding (Senator Reyes – D, 29 / Assemblymember Schiavo – D, 40)

- In the June final budget, the Governor and California Legislature included \$100 million in one-time funding to support California VOCA-funded programs to supplement the loss in federal VOCA funding.