



SENATE MINORITY LEADER

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Senate Bill 380 Fact Sheet – Transitional Housing for Sexually Violent Predators

SUMMARY

SB 380 implements the recommendation of the California State Auditor, [“2023-130 Conditional Release Program for Sexually Violent Predators”](#),

By requiring DSH to conduct a feasibility study of utilizing Transitional Housing in the Forensic Conditional Release Program (CONREP) for Sexually Violent Predators (SVP).

BACKGROUND

A Sexually Violent Predator is an individual convicted of a sexually violent offense and diagnosed with a mental disorder that causes them to be a danger to others with a high likelihood to reoffend.

When an SVP is recommended for the Forensic Conditional Release Program, commonly called CONREP, the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is responsible for notifying the county of domicile (where the SVP resided prior to incarceration), coordinating their release placement, and overseeing their treatment. DSH then contracts with Liberty Healthcare to provide all services for the CONREP throughout California.

Once the court approves an SVP’s participation in CONREP, a search for a location for the placement begins. After locating a potential placement that meets all requirements, Liberty Healthcare seeks approval from the court for the SVP placement. If the court approves the placement, a public notification is made and a 30-day public comment period begins. At the end of the public comment period, the court may then make a final placement order or instruct CONREP to find a different placement.

PROBLEM

In 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved [an audit](#) of the CONREP process and how DSH and Liberty worked together. The audit found that DSH has faced numerous hurdles when attempting to locate suitable housing for the program to use. These hurdles include complex program requirements intended to ensure public safety, few property owners who have been willing to rent for use by the program, and public opposition to the placement of program participants within local communities. Consequently, placing program participants has typically taken the State an average of 17 months, significantly longer than state law generally allows.

The audit recommended that DSH should explore establishing state-owned transitional housing to potentially reduce the time needed to place program participants in community housing. The recommendations said that DSH should conduct an analysis of the benefits and feasibility of establishing transitional housing facilities for the program. **DSH [declared](#) in their response to the audit that they will not implement this recommendation.**

SOLUTION

This bill simply takes the audit report’s recommendation and requires DSH to conduct the feasibility study of utilizing Transitional Housing in the CONREP program and provide this report to the Legislature.

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