

SENATE BILL SB-71

Introduced by Senator Suzette Martinez Valladares (R-23)

An act relating to Enhance Our Safety Act .

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-71, Suzette Martinez Valladares (R-23). Enhance Our Safety Act .

This bill is an act amending Section 1031 of the Government Code, relating to public officers, and Section 13510 of the Penal Code, relating to public officer standards. It adds additional requirements for repeated screenings as needed. Any and all peace officers within any given district shall be required to undergo updated bias screenings. This includes updated mental health screenings, which shall be conducted by the same mental health professionals who conducted the assessment at the time of hiring, and fingerprint and identity background checks.

Vote: Majority. Appropriations/fiscal: yes. Local program: yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE – FALL 2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. [TA ASSIGNS]

Introduced by Senator Suzette Martinez Valladares

September 28, 2026

An act to amend Section 1031 of the Government Code, relating to public officers, and Section 13510 of the Penal Code, relating to public officer standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB [TA Assigns #], as introduced, Valladares, Peace Officers: additional and repeated screening and for internal bias that may hinder ability to render aid.

Existing laws require peace officers to be of good moral judgment, including bias against sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Moral judgment is to be determined through a background investigation, conducted once before appointing an officer. The background investigations are conducted through fingerprint screening and the viewing of personal records. As well as through mental health evaluations conducted by qualified professionals.

This bill will add an additional requirement of repeated screenings. These screenings are to be conducted

on a quarterly basis or as needed. Any and all peace officers within any given district shall be required to undergo updated bias screenings. Updated mental health screenings with the same mental health professionals who conducted the assessment at the time of hiring.

Local law enforcement agencies will not be strained with the costs of the additional screenings, as local agencies are reimbursed by the state as per the California Constitution. Better screenings for peace officers will allow for better performance and enhanced public safety. This will help in matters when de-escalation is needed. The consistency of the screenings will ensure the public feels safe with the presence of additional peace officers in communities. This will additionally allow for individual peace officers to receive additional counseling and care as needed.

Vote: Majority Appropriation: No Fiscal: Yes Local Program: Yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS

SECTION 1. Section 13510 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

(a) (1) For the purpose of raising the level of competence of local law enforcement officers, the commission shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, rules establishing and upholding ~~minimum~~ maximum standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness, that is to be consistently reevaluated to ensure an officers mental standing has not faltered over time, that shall govern the recruitment of any city police officers, peace officer members of a county sheriff's office, marshals or deputy marshals, peace officer members of a county coroner's office notwithstanding Section 13526, reserve officers, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 830.6, police officers of a district authorized by statute to maintain a police department.

SECTION 2. Section 1031 of the Government Code amended to read:

(a) Be legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law.

(b) Be 18 years of age or older.

(c) Be fingerprinted for purposes of searching local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose a criminal record.

(d) Be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation.

(d) Be of good moral character, as determined through repeated psychological evaluations. (a) Be legally authorized to work in the United States under Federal Law

(b) Be 18 years of age or older

(c) Be fingerprinted for purposes of searching local, state, and national fingerprint files to disclose a criminal record.

~~(d) Be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation.~~

(d) Be of good moral character, as determined through repeated psychological

evaluations.