

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1376 (Bonta) – OPPOSE

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors is opposed to Assembly Bill 1376, which would set a 12-month mandatory presumption for discharge from court-ordered probation for wards of the court up to age 25, including the most serious and violent 707(b) offenses, moving away from individualized approaches, needs-based, and risk-based supervision.

- The bill applies to all wards of the court, including the most serious and violent offenses, such as murder, rape, robbery, and arson, among others. Wardship probation is reserved for circumstances involving more serious offenses and when deemed necessary and appropriate for the safety of the youth and the community.
- The limited exemptions outlined in the bill are arbitrary and fail to ensure that youth adjudicated of the most serious and violent offenses with the highest needs and posing the highest risk are provided adequate time to rehabilitate. As these youth and young adults under the supervision of the County Probation Department have the highest risk and highest need, they require individualized approaches to address both rehabilitative goals and community safety risks, and it is critical not to apply presumptive discharges.
- Setting the presumption for mandatory discharge at an arbitrary 12 months, even with the potential to extend, will have unintended and poor public safety consequences. It moves away from individualized rehabilitative goals and toward a prescribed presumption of discharge, failing to balance public safety outcomes with youth and young adult rehabilitation progress.
- This bill removes the Courts' necessary flexibility to make individualized determinations that balance the needs of youth and young adults and the public safety interests of our community. It is important to note that while courts in some counties have established timelines for reviewing, there are none that require the outcome of that review to be a discharge from probation, nor are there any that have adopted a presumption of discharge from probation, which this bill establishes.

The Del Norte County Probation Department and departments statewide work diligently to encourage, create and provide opportunities to support youth in making progress to discharge from probation when programs and goals have been met. This bill undermines those efforts by setting up a presumption of a mandatory discharge for all wards of the court, both low- and high-risk, and does not strike the appropriate and individualized balance envisioned with a process responsive to offenses and dynamic factors in youths' lives.

AB 1376's prescriptiveness and scope of applicability are not in the best interest of public safety, victims of juvenile crime, or the meaningful rehabilitative work that is done to support court wards in making progress toward meeting their rehabilitative goals.

For reasons stated above, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors asks for your veto on AB 1376.