

MEMORANDUM



DATE: December 23, 2025

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators
California Association of Highway Patrolmen
California Association of Public Hospitals
California Children's Hospital Association
California Peace Officers' Association
California State Sheriff's Association
California Statewide Law Enforcement Association
Disability Rights California
Hospital Association of Southern California
Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers
Northern California Peace Officer Association
Psychiatric Health Facilities
Private Essential Access Community Hospitals

FROM: Janelle Ito-Orille, Division Chief
Licensing and Certification Division

SUBJECT: [Assembly Bill 416: Emergency Physicians Eligible for LPS Designation](#)

This memorandum outlines the changes made to the Lanterman-Petris Short (LPS) Act by Assembly Bill (AB) 416 (Krell, Chapter 691, Statutes of 2025).

Assembly Bill 416

AB 416, which was signed by Governor Newsom on October 13, 2025, amends Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5113 and 5121.

AB 416 amends Welfare and Institutions Code section 5121 to add new subdivision (f), which states:

- (1) A county behavioral health director shall include an emergency physician as one of the practice disciplines eligible to be designated by the county when developing and implementing procedures to designate and train professionals to perform functions under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150.
- (2) This subdivision does not affect the training, application, approval, and revocation process that applies to all professionals who are eligible to be designated by the county, including an emergency physician.
- (3) "Emergency physician" means a physician and surgeon who provides medical screening and treatment of patients in the emergency department of a general acute care hospital licensed under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1250) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code.

AB 416 also amends Welfare and Institutions Code section 5113 to add professional persons designated pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 5121 to the exemption from civil and criminal liability for any actions taken by a person detained under the LPS Act following release. These changes to the law take effect on January 1, 2026.

Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to the Licensing and Certification Division by email at LPSinfo@DHCS.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 323-1864.