

California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



Senate Bill 1261 – Protecting Access to Essential Aging and Disability Services

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1261 ensures Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs) statewide, including those serving San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, may continue operating during major transitions affecting aging services. In doing so, the bill prevents disruptions to critical services that older adults and individuals with disabilities rely on.

BACKGROUND

California's aging population is growing rapidly. By 2030, an estimated 25% of the state's population will be over the age of 60. Supporting this population, as well as individuals with disabilities of all ages, requires integrated, community-based systems to facilitate access to the right care.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are public or private nonprofit agencies that provide a wide array of services to older adults at the regional and local levels. Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are disability-led organizations that support people of all ages and all types of disabilities. Because the populations and needs served by AAAs and ILCs often overlap, many agencies with shared geographic boundaries partner to form Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs). ADRCs operate as a "No Wrong Door" system to connect individuals to the resources they need regardless of age or disability. This approach ensures that no matter where an individual seeks help, they are connected to the appropriate services without being referred from office to office.

State law requires every ADRC to include both an AAA and ILC as core partners. In San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties (Planning and Service Area 17), the local AAA is being dedesignated. At the same time, Ventura County (Planning and Service Area 18) is stepping down from its role as an AAA. Because ADRCs must legally operate in partnership with an AAA, these changes would force the ADRCs serving the three counties to close, even though community members still depend on its services every day. Similar changes to AAA or ILC designations in other regions could trigger the same outcome for ADRCs elsewhere in the state and force closure.

THIS BILL

Senate Bill 1261 provides a temporary solution to prevent service disruption by allowing an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) to continue operating for at least one year, and up to two years, if its Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or Independent Living Center (ILC) can no longer serve in its operator role.

This transition period ensures essential services remain uninterrupted while a replacement AAA or ILC is designated. Once a new partner is in place, full joint operation of the ADRC will be reestablished.

SPONSOR

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging