

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 17, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1589**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Romero**

February 24, 2006

---

---

An act to add Section 1756.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1589, as amended, Romero. Division of Juvenile Justice: specialized programming.

The Division of Juvenile Justice is vested with all the powers, functions, duties, responsibilities, obligations, liabilities, and jurisdiction of the former Youth Authority. The Division of Juvenile Justice consists of the Division of Juvenile Facilities, the Division of Juvenile Programs, and the Division of Juvenile Parole Operations under the Chief Deputy of Juvenile Justice, each headed by a chief who is appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation.

This bill would require the Division of Juvenile Justice to explore options to provide specialized programming outside of division facilities for high risk or high need juvenile offenders, taking into account availability and specified criterion. The bill would further require the division to give priority for the placement of female offenders with governmental agencies or, if unavailable, to report alternatives to the Legislature at that time. The bill would also require the division to transfer all female offenders out of division facilities as expediently as possible. *Upon that transfer, the bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to find an alternative use for the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. If used to house adult*

*inmates, the bill would then require the department to implement an honor yard program at that facility, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
 State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1756.5 is added to the Welfare and  
 2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 1756.5. (a) The Division of Juvenile Justice shall explore  
 4 options to provide specialized programming outside of division  
 5 facilities for high risk or high need offenders, if programming is  
 6 available. Specialized programs for these offenders shall take  
 7 into account commitment offenses, delinquency history, age,  
 8 gender, medical and mental health condition, risk levels, and any  
 9 other commitment criteria.

10 (b) The Division of Juvenile Justice may also consider  
 11 changes with respect to eligibility, age, jurisdiction, or length of  
 12 confinement in order to ensure quality programming within  
 13 division facilities.

14 (c) (1) Given the small number of female offenders and their  
 15 specialized needs, the Division of Juvenile Justice shall explore  
 16 options to provide programming for female offenders outside of  
 17 division facilities. In considering these options, the division shall  
 18 give priority for the placement of female offenders to  
 19 governmental agencies or, if those options are not appropriate or  
 20 available for the placement of female offenders, the division shall  
 21 report any and all other alternatives to the Legislature at that  
 22 time. The division shall transfer all female offenders out of  
 23 division facilities as expeditiously as possible.

24 (2) *Once the female offender population has been transferred*  
 25 *out of division facilities, the Department of Corrections and*  
 26 *Rehabilitation shall find an alternative use for the Ventura Youth*  
 27 *Correctional Facility. Options shall include housing male wards*  
 28 *of the Division of Juvenile Justice or low level offenders from the*  
 29 *adult inmate population. If adult inmates are housed in this*  
 30 *facility, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall*  
 31 *implement an honor yard program, such as exists at the*  
 32 *California State Prison, Los Angeles County, in Lancaster,*

- 1 *drawing on the policies set forth in its honor yard operational*
- 2 *procedures.*

O