

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 308**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ramos**

January 23, 2025

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An act to add Section 16529.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 308, as introduced, Ramos. The Family Urgent Response System.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a statewide hotline as the entry point for the Family Urgent Response System, as defined, to respond to calls from caregivers or current or former foster children or youth during moments of instability, as specified. Existing law requires the hotline to include, among other things, referrals to a county-based mobile response system, as specified, for further support and in-person response. Existing law requires the department to collect deidentified, aggregated data, including the number of current and former foster children or youth served through the statewide hotline and the disposition of each call, and requires the department to publish a report on its internet website, as specified.

Existing law also requires county child welfare, probation, and behavioral health agencies, in each county or region of counties, as specified, to establish a joint county-based mobile response system that includes a mobile response and stabilization team for the purpose of providing supportive services to, among other things, address situations of instability, preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth, and stabilize the situation.

This bill would authorize a county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the county's mobile response system, which

may include procedures for handling an emergency situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health issue, or another developmental disability. The bill would require those procedures to include, among other things, deescalation techniques for an individual that takes into account their specific circumstances to preserve their safety and well-being. This bill would authorize a county behavioral health director to create training for those procedures and would require that training to be developed in conjunction with law enforcement.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 16529.5 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 16529.5. (a) A county behavioral health director may develop
- 4 procedures for the county’s mobile response system, which may
- 5 include, but are not limited to, the handling of an emergency
- 6 situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health
- 7 issue, or another developmental disability.
- 8 (b) If a county behavioral health director develops procedures
- 9 pursuant to this section, those procedures shall include all of the
- 10 following:
- 11 (1) Deescalation techniques for an encounter with an individual
- 12 that takes into account the individual’s specific circumstances to
- 13 preserve their safety and well-being.
- 14 (2) The appropriate amount of force to use on an individual, as
- 15 necessary.
- 16 (3) Guidance and best practices regarding the transportation of
- 17 an individual to their designated health care facility.
- 18 (c) (1) A county behavioral health director may create training
- 19 for procedures developed pursuant to subdivision (a).
- 20 (2) Training developed pursuant to this section shall be
- 21 developed in conjunction with law enforcement.

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