

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 10, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 3, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

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**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1103**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ward**

February 20, 2025

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An act to amend Sections 11121.1 and 11126 of the Government Code, and to amend Sections 11213, 11480, and 11480.5 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 11481 of, to add Sections 11480.3 and 11482 to, and to add, repeal, and add Section 11480.1 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to controlled substances.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1103, as amended, Ward. Controlled substances: research.

Existing law, the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, classifies controlled substances into 5 designated schedules, with the most restrictive limitations generally placed on controlled substances classified in Schedule I, and the least restrictive limitations generally placed on controlled substances classified in Schedule V. Existing law creates a Research Advisory Panel, as specified, to conduct hearings on, and in other ways study, research projects concerning controlled substances. Existing law authorizes the panel to approve research

projects that have been registered with the Attorney General concerning the nature and effects of cannabis or hallucinogenic drugs and the treatment of abuse of controlled substances. Existing law authorizes a person who, under federal law, is entitled to use controlled substances for the purpose of research, instruction, or analysis, to lawfully obtain and use those controlled substances upon approval by the panel, as specified.

This bill would revise and recast these provisions to require the panel to review research projects to be conducted in this state that require the administration of Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substances to human and animal research subjects. The bill would authorize the panel, until January 1, 2028, to expedite the review of projects that satisfy certain criteria, including, among others things, that have an approval letter from an institutional review board or an institutional animal care and use committee and have proof of independent peer review of the study, as described. The bill would authorize the chairperson of the panel to deputize 2 or more panel members to review the research project and to approve it, without a vote by the entire panel. The bill would authorize the panel to withdraw its approval for reasonable cause and would require the panel to provide notice and time for the concern to be cured by the project before withdrawing its approval. The bill would require the Attorney General to collaborate with the chairperson of the panel on the formulation of any regulations relating to the panel.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend. Existing law, until January 1, 2027, authorizes the Research Advisory Panel to hold closed sessions for the purpose of discussing, reviewing, and approving research projects that contain sensitive and confidential information, including trade secrets, intellectual property, or proprietary information in its possession, the public disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

This bill would extend the authorization to hold closed sessions to January 1, 2028, and would additionally exempt the above-described panel members assigned to review and approve a research project from the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act until January 1, 2028.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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 11121.1 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 11121.1. As used in this article, “state body” does not include  
4 any of the following:

5 (a) Except as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 11121, state  
6 agencies provided for in Article VI of the California Constitution.

7 (b) Districts or other local agencies whose meetings are required  
8 to be open to the public pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act  
9 (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division  
10 2 of Title 5).

11 (c) State agencies provided for in Article IV of the California  
12 Constitution whose meetings are required to be open to the public  
13 pursuant to the Grunsky-Burton Open Meeting Act (Article 2.2  
14 (commencing with Section 9027) of Chapter 1.5 of Part 1 of  
15 Division 2 of Title 2).

16 (d) State agencies when they are conducting proceedings  
17 pursuant to Section 3596.

18 (e) State agencies provided for in Section 109260 of the Health  
19 and Safety Code, except as provided in Section 109390 of the  
20 Health and Safety Code.

21 (f) The Credit Union Advisory Committee established pursuant  
22 to Section 14380 of the Financial Code.

23 (g) (A) Panel members assigned by the chairperson of the  
24 Research Advisory Panel to conduct an expedited review pursuant  
25 to subdivision (e) of Section 11480.1 of the Health and Safety  
26 Code.

27 (B) *This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1,*  
28 *2028.*

29 SEC. 2. Section 11126 of the Government Code is amended  
30 to read:

31 11126. (a) (1) Nothing in this article shall be construed to  
32 prevent a state body from holding closed sessions during a regular  
33 or special meeting to consider the appointment, employment,  
34 evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee or

1 to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by  
2 another person or employee unless the employee requests a public  
3 hearing.

4 (2) As a condition to holding a closed session on the complaints  
5 or charges to consider disciplinary action or to consider dismissal,  
6 the employee shall be given written notice of their right to have a  
7 public hearing, rather than a closed session, and that notice shall  
8 be delivered to the employee personally or by mail at least 24 hours  
9 before the time for holding a regular or special meeting. If notice  
10 is not given, any disciplinary or other action taken against any  
11 employee at the closed session shall be null and void.

12 (3) The state body also may exclude from any public or closed  
13 session, during the examination of a witness, any or all other  
14 witnesses in the matter being investigated by the state body.

15 (4) Following the public hearing or closed session, the body  
16 may deliberate on the decision to be reached in a closed session.

17 (b) For the purposes of this section, “employee” does not include  
18 any person who is elected to, or appointed to a public office by,  
19 any state body. However, officers of the California State University  
20 who receive compensation for their services, other than per diem  
21 and ordinary and necessary expenses, shall, when engaged in that  
22 capacity, be considered employees. Furthermore, for purposes of  
23 this section, the term employee includes a person exempt from  
24 civil service pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 4 of Article VII  
25 of the California Constitution.

26 (c) Nothing in this article shall be construed to do any of the  
27 following:

28 (1) Prevent state bodies that administer the licensing of persons  
29 engaging in businesses or professions from holding closed sessions  
30 to prepare, approve, grade, or administer examinations.

31 (2) Prevent an advisory body of a state body that administers  
32 the licensing of persons engaged in businesses or professions from  
33 conducting a closed session to discuss matters that the advisory  
34 body has found would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the  
35 privacy of an individual licensee or applicant if discussed in an  
36 open meeting, provided the advisory body does not include a  
37 quorum of the members of the state body it advises. Those matters  
38 may include review of an applicant’s qualifications for licensure  
39 and an inquiry specifically related to the state body’s enforcement  
40 program concerning an individual licensee or applicant where the

1 inquiry occurs prior to the filing of a civil, criminal, or  
2 administrative disciplinary action against the licensee or applicant  
3 by the state body.

4 (3) Prohibit a state body from holding a closed session to  
5 deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding required to  
6 be conducted pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section  
7 11500) or similar provisions of law.

8 (4) Grant a right to enter any correctional institution or the  
9 grounds of a correctional institution where that right is not  
10 otherwise granted by law, nor shall anything in this article be  
11 construed to prevent a state body from holding a closed session  
12 when considering and acting upon the determination of a term,  
13 parole, or release of any individual or other disposition of an  
14 individual case, or if public disclosure of the subjects under  
15 discussion or consideration is expressly prohibited by statute.

16 (5) Prevent any closed session to consider the conferring of  
17 honorary degrees, or gifts, donations, and bequests that the donor  
18 or proposed donor has requested in writing to be kept confidential.

19 (6) Prevent the Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board or  
20 the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel from holding a closed session  
21 for the purpose of holding a deliberative conference as provided  
22 in Section 11125.

23 (7) (A) Prevent a state body from holding closed sessions with  
24 its negotiator prior to the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real  
25 property by or for the state body to give instructions to its  
26 negotiator regarding the price and terms of payment for the  
27 purchase, sale, exchange, or lease.

28 (B) However, prior to the closed session, the state body shall  
29 hold an open and public session in which it identifies the real  
30 property or real properties that the negotiations may concern and  
31 the person or persons with whom its negotiator may negotiate.

32 (C) For purposes of this paragraph, the negotiator may be a  
33 member of the state body.

34 (D) For purposes of this paragraph, “lease” includes renewal or  
35 renegotiation of a lease.

36 (E) Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude a state body from  
37 holding a closed session for discussions regarding eminent domain  
38 proceedings pursuant to subdivision (e).

39 (8) Prevent the California Postsecondary Education Commission  
40 from holding closed sessions to consider matters pertaining to the

1 appointment or termination of the Director of the California  
2 Postsecondary Education Commission.

3 (9) Prevent the Council for Private Postsecondary and  
4 Vocational Education from holding closed sessions to consider  
5 matters pertaining to the appointment or termination of the  
6 Executive Director of the Council for Private Postsecondary and  
7 Vocational Education.

8 (10) Prevent the Franchise Tax Board from holding closed  
9 sessions for the purpose of discussion of confidential tax returns  
10 or information the public disclosure of which is prohibited by law,  
11 or from considering matters pertaining to the appointment or  
12 removal of the Executive Officer of the Franchise Tax Board.

13 (11) Require the Franchise Tax Board to notice or disclose any  
14 confidential tax information considered in closed sessions, or  
15 documents executed in connection therewith, the public disclosure  
16 of which is prohibited pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with  
17 Section 19542) of Chapter 7 of Part 10.2 of Division 2 of the  
18 Revenue and Taxation Code.

19 (12) Prevent the Board of State and Community Corrections  
20 from holding closed sessions when considering reports of crime  
21 conditions under Section 6027 of the Penal Code.

22 (13) Prevent the State Air Resources Board from holding closed  
23 sessions when considering the proprietary specifications and  
24 performance data of manufacturers.

25 (14) Prevent the State Board of Education or the Superintendent  
26 of Public Instruction, or any committee advising the board or the  
27 Superintendent, from holding closed sessions on those portions of  
28 its review of assessment instruments pursuant to Chapter 5  
29 (commencing with Section 60600) of Part 33 of Division 4 of Title  
30 2 of the Education Code during which actual test content is  
31 reviewed and discussed. The purpose of this provision is to  
32 maintain the confidentiality of the assessments under review.

33 (15) Prevent the Department of Resources Recycling and  
34 Recovery or its auxiliary committees from holding closed sessions  
35 for the purpose of discussing confidential tax returns, discussing  
36 trade secrets or confidential or proprietary information in its  
37 possession, or discussing other data, the public disclosure of which  
38 is prohibited by law.

39 (16) Prevent a state body that invests retirement, pension, or  
40 endowment funds from holding closed sessions when considering

1 investment decisions. For purposes of consideration of shareholder  
2 voting on corporate stocks held by the state body, closed sessions  
3 for the purposes of voting may be held only with respect to election  
4 of corporate directors, election of independent auditors, and other  
5 financial issues that could have a material effect on the net income  
6 of the corporation. For the purpose of real property investment  
7 decisions that may be considered in a closed session pursuant to  
8 this paragraph, a state body shall also be exempt from the  
9 provisions of paragraph (7) relating to the identification of real  
10 properties prior to the closed session.

11 (17) Prevent a state body, or boards, commissions,  
12 administrative officers, or other representatives that may properly  
13 be designated by law or by a state body, from holding closed  
14 sessions with its representatives in discharging its responsibilities  
15 under Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 3500), Chapter 10.3  
16 (commencing with Section 3512), Chapter 10.5 (commencing with  
17 Section 3525), or Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540)  
18 of Division 4 of Title 1 as the sessions relate to salaries, salary  
19 schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits.  
20 For the purposes enumerated in the preceding sentence, a state  
21 body may also meet with a state conciliator who has intervened  
22 in the proceedings.

23 (18) (A) Prevent a state body from holding closed sessions to  
24 consider matters posing a threat or potential threat of criminal or  
25 terrorist activity against the personnel, property, buildings,  
26 facilities, or equipment, including electronic data, owned, leased,  
27 or controlled by the state body, where disclosure of these  
28 considerations could compromise or impede the safety or security  
29 of the personnel, property, buildings, facilities, or equipment,  
30 including electronic data, owned, leased, or controlled by the state  
31 body.

32 (B) Notwithstanding any other law, a state body, at any regular  
33 or special meeting, may meet in a closed session pursuant to  
34 subparagraph (A) upon a two-thirds vote of the members present  
35 at the meeting.

36 (C) After meeting in closed session pursuant to subparagraph  
37 (A), the state body shall reconvene in open session prior to  
38 adjournment and report that a closed session was held pursuant to  
39 subparagraph (A), the general nature of the matters considered,  
40 and whether any action was taken in closed session.

(D) After meeting in closed session pursuant to subparagraph (A), the state body shall submit to the Legislative Analyst written notification stating that it held this closed session, the general reason or reasons for the closed session, the general nature of the matters considered, and whether any action was taken in closed session. The Legislative Analyst shall retain for no less than four years any written notification received from a state body pursuant to this subparagraph.

(19) Prevent the California Sex Offender Management Board from holding a closed session for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the application of a sex offender treatment provider for certification pursuant to Sections 290.09 and 9003 of the Penal Code. Those matters may include review of an applicant's qualifications for certification.

(20) (A) Prevent the Research Advisory Panel established in Sections 11480 and 11481 of the Health and Safety Code from holding closed sessions for the purpose of discussing, reviewing, and approving research projects, including applications and amendment applications, that contain sensitive and confidential information, including, but not limited to, trade secrets, intellectual property, or proprietary information in its possession, the public disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

(B) This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1, 2028.

(21) (A) Prevent the governing board or advisory panel of the California Earthquake Authority described in Section 10089.7 of the Insurance Code from holding a closed session, to the extent that session would address the development of rates, reinsurance, and strategy, pursuant to the powers granted in paragraph (5) of subdivision (c) of Section 10089.7 of the Insurance Code, paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 10089.33 of the Insurance Code, and subdivision (a) of Section 10089.40 of the Insurance Code, when discussion in open session concerning those matters would prejudice the position of the California Earthquake Authority.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the governing board or advisory panel of the California Earthquake Authority, at any regular or special meeting, may meet in a closed session pursuant to subparagraph (A) upon a two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting taken after first providing an



1 opportunity for members of the public to be heard on the issue of  
2 the appropriateness of meeting in closed session.

3 (C) After meeting in closed session pursuant to subparagraph  
4 (A), the governing board or advisory panel of the California  
5 Earthquake Authority shall reconvene in open session prior to  
6 adjournment and report that a closed session was held pursuant to  
7 subparagraph (A), the general nature of the matters considered,  
8 and whether any action was taken in closed session.

9 (D) If the duration of a closed session held pursuant to  
10 subparagraph (A) is longer than two hours, the governing board  
11 or advisory panel of the California Earthquake Authority shall  
12 provide reasonable notice to the public, either by email to the  
13 California Earthquake Authority's public notice list or by posting  
14 on the California Earthquake Authority's website, before  
15 reconvening in open session pursuant to subparagraph (C).

16 (d) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, any meeting of the  
17 Public Utilities Commission at which the rates of entities under  
18 the commission's jurisdiction are changed shall be open and public.

19 (2) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the  
20 Public Utilities Commission from holding closed sessions to  
21 deliberate on the institution of proceedings, or disciplinary actions  
22 against any person or entity under the jurisdiction of the  
23 commission.

24 (e) (1) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent a  
25 state body, based on the advice of its legal counsel, from holding  
26 a closed session to confer with, or receive advice from, its legal  
27 counsel regarding pending litigation when discussion in open  
28 session concerning those matters would prejudice the position of  
29 the state body in the litigation.

30 (2) For purposes of this article, all expressions of the  
31 lawyer-client privilege other than those provided in this subdivision  
32 are hereby abrogated. This subdivision is the exclusive expression  
33 of the lawyer-client privilege for purposes of conducting closed  
34 session meetings pursuant to this article. For purposes of this  
35 subdivision, litigation shall be considered pending when any of  
36 the following circumstances exist:

37 (A) An adjudicatory proceeding before a court, an administrative  
38 body exercising its adjudicatory authority, a hearing officer, or an  
39 arbitrator, to which the state body is a party, has been initiated  
40 formally.

1 (B) (i) A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the  
2 state body on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing  
3 facts and circumstances, there is a significant exposure to litigation  
4 against the state body.

5 (ii) Based on existing facts and circumstances, the state body  
6 is meeting only to decide whether a closed session is authorized  
7 pursuant to clause (i).

8 (C) Based on existing facts and circumstances, the state body  
9 has decided to initiate or is deciding whether to initiate litigation.

10 (3) The legal counsel of the state body shall prepare and submit  
11 to it a memorandum stating the specific reasons and legal authority  
12 for the closed session. If the closed session is pursuant to  
13 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2), the memorandum shall include  
14 the title of the litigation. If the closed session is pursuant to  
15 subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (2), the memorandum shall  
16 include the existing facts and circumstances on which it is based.  
17 The legal counsel shall submit the memorandum to the state body  
18 prior to the closed session, if feasible, and in any case no later than  
19 one week after the closed session. The memorandum shall be  
20 exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 7927.205.

21 (4) For purposes of this subdivision, “litigation” includes any  
22 adjudicatory proceeding, including eminent domain, before a court,  
23 administrative body exercising its adjudicatory authority, hearing  
24 officer, or arbitrator.

25 (5) Disclosure of a memorandum required under this subdivision  
26 shall not be deemed as a waiver of the lawyer-client privilege, as  
27 provided for under Article 3 (commencing with Section 950) of  
28 Chapter 4 of Division 8 of the Evidence Code.

29 (f) In addition to subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), nothing in this  
30 article shall be construed to do any of the following:

31 (1) Prevent a state body operating under a joint powers  
32 agreement for insurance pooling from holding a closed session to  
33 discuss a claim for the payment of tort liability or public liability  
34 losses incurred by the state body or any member agency under the  
35 joint powers agreement.

36 (2) Prevent the examining committee established by the State  
37 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, pursuant to Section 763 of  
38 the Public Resources Code, from conducting a closed session to  
39 consider disciplinary action against an individual professional

1 forester prior to the filing of an accusation against the forester  
2 pursuant to Section 11503.

3 (3) Prevent the enforcement advisory committee established by  
4 the California Board of Accountancy pursuant to Section 5020 of  
5 the Business and Professions Code from conducting a closed  
6 session to consider disciplinary action against an individual  
7 accountant prior to the filing of an accusation against the  
8 accountant pursuant to Section 11503. Nothing in this article shall  
9 be construed to prevent the qualifications examining committee  
10 established by the California Board of Accountancy pursuant to  
11 Section 5023 of the Business and Professions Code from  
12 conducting a closed hearing to interview an individual applicant  
13 or accountant regarding the applicant's qualifications.

14 (4) Prevent a state body, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section  
15 11121, from conducting a closed session to consider any matter  
16 that properly could be considered in closed session by the state  
17 body whose authority it exercises.

18 (5) Prevent a state body, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section  
19 11121, from conducting a closed session to consider any matter  
20 that properly could be considered in a closed session by the body  
21 defined as a state body pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) of Section  
22 11121.

23 (6) Prevent a state body, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section  
24 11121, from conducting a closed session to consider any matter  
25 that properly could be considered in a closed session by the state  
26 body it advises.

27 (7) Prevent the State Board of Equalization from holding closed  
28 sessions for either of the following:

29 (A) When considering matters pertaining to the appointment or  
30 removal of the Executive Secretary of the State Board of  
31 Equalization.

32 (B) For the purpose of hearing confidential taxpayer appeals or  
33 data, the public disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

34 (8) Require the State Board of Equalization to disclose any  
35 action taken in closed session or documents executed in connection  
36 with that action, the public disclosure of which is prohibited by  
37 law pursuant to Sections 15619 and 15641 of this code and Sections  
38 833, 7056, 8255, 9255, 11655, 30455, 32455, 38705, 38706, 43651,  
39 45982, 46751, 50159, 55381, and 60609 of the Revenue and  
40 Taxation Code.

(9) Prevent the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council, or other body appointed to advise the Director of Emergency Services or the Governor concerning matters relating to volcanic or earthquake predictions, from holding closed sessions when considering the evaluation of possible predictions.

(g) This article does not prevent either of the following:

(1) The Teachers' Retirement Board or the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System from holding closed sessions when considering matters pertaining to the recruitment, appointment, employment, or removal of the chief executive officer or when considering matters pertaining to the recruitment or removal of the Chief Investment Officer of the State Teachers' Retirement System or the Public Employees' Retirement System.

(2) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing from holding closed sessions when considering matters relating to the recruitment, appointment, or removal of its executive director.

(h) This article does not prevent the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System from holding closed sessions when considering matters relating to the development of rates and competitive strategy for plans offered pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 21660) of Part 3 of Division 5 of Title 2.

(i) This article does not prevent the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board from holding closed sessions when considering matters related to the development of rates and contracting strategy for entities contracting or seeking to contract with the board, entities with which the board is considering a contract, or entities with which the board is considering or enters into any other arrangement under which the board provides, receives, or arranges services or reimbursement, pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693), former Part 6.3 (commencing with Section 12695), former Part 6.4 (commencing with Section 12699.50), former Part 6.5 (commencing with Section 12700), former Part 6.6 (commencing with Section 12739.5), or former Part 6.7 (commencing with Section 12739.70) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code.

(j) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the board of the State Compensation Insurance Fund from holding closed sessions in the following:

1 (1) When considering matters related to claims pursuant to  
2 Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 3200) of Part 1 of Division  
3 4 of the Labor Code, to the extent that confidential medical  
4 information or other individually identifiable information would  
5 be disclosed.

6 (2) To the extent that matters related to audits and investigations  
7 that have not been completed would be disclosed.

8 (3) To the extent that an internal audit containing proprietary  
9 information would be disclosed.

10 (4) To the extent that the session would address the development  
11 of rates, contracting strategy, underwriting, or competitive strategy,  
12 pursuant to the powers granted to the board in Chapter 4  
13 (commencing with Section 11770) of Part 3 of Division 2 of the  
14 Insurance Code, when discussion in open session concerning those  
15 matters would prejudice the position of the State Compensation  
16 Insurance Fund.

17 (k) The State Compensation Insurance Fund shall comply with  
18 the procedures specified in Section 11125.4 of the Government  
19 Code with respect to any closed session or meeting authorized by  
20 subdivision (j), and in addition shall provide an opportunity for a  
21 member of the public to be heard on the issue of the  
22 appropriateness of closing the meeting or session.

23 SEC. 3. Section 11213 of the Health and Safety Code is  
24 amended to read:

25 11213. (a) Persons who, under applicable federal laws or  
26 regulations, are lawfully entitled to use Schedule I, Schedule II,  
27 or both, controlled substances for the purpose of research,  
28 instruction, or analysis, may lawfully obtain and use those  
29 substances, as defined in this division, for those purposes upon  
30 approval for use of those controlled substances in bona fide  
31 research, instruction, or analysis by the Research Advisory Panel  
32 established pursuant to Section 11480.

33 (b) Such research, instruction, or analysis shall be carried on  
34 only under the auspices of the head of a research project that has  
35 been approved by the Research Advisory Panel pursuant to Section  
36 11480.1. Complete records of receipts, stocks at hand, and use of  
37 these controlled substances shall be kept.

38 SEC. 4. Section 11480 of the Health and Safety Code is  
39 amended to read:

1 11480. (a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to  
2 encourage further research into the nature and effects of cannabis  
3 and hallucinogenic drugs and to coordinate research efforts on  
4 such subjects.

5 (b) There is a Research Advisory Panel that consists of a  
6 representative of the State Department of Health Services, a  
7 representative of the California State Board of Pharmacy, the State  
8 Public Health Officer, a representative of the Attorney General, a  
9 representative of the University of California who shall be a  
10 pharmacologist, a physician, or a person holding a doctorate degree  
11 in the health sciences, a representative of a private university in  
12 this state who shall be a pharmacologist, a physician, or a person  
13 holding a doctorate degree in the health sciences, a representative  
14 of a statewide professional medical society in this state who shall  
15 be engaged in the private practice of medicine and shall be  
16 experienced in treating controlled substance dependency, a  
17 representative appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the  
18 Governor who shall have experience in drug abuse, cancer, or  
19 controlled substance research and who is either a registered nurse,  
20 licensed pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)  
21 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, or other health  
22 professional. The Governor shall annually designate the private  
23 university and the professional medical society represented on the  
24 panel. Members of the panel shall be appointed by the heads of  
25 the entities to be represented, and they shall serve at the pleasure  
26 of the appointing power.

27 (c) The panel shall annually select a chairperson from among  
28 its members. In order to ensure continuity, the Attorney General  
29 shall also continue to employ an executive officer of the panel and  
30 necessary employees, whose duties shall include, but not be limited  
31 to, coordinating with the panel's chairperson to assign incoming  
32 research project applications for review or approval by individual  
33 panel members with relevant core competencies.

34 (d) Members of the panel shall serve without compensation, but  
35 shall be reimbursed for any actual and necessary expenses incurred  
36 in connection with the performance of their duties.

37 SEC. 5. Section 11480.1 is added to the Health and Safety  
38 Code, to read:

39 11480.1. (a) The panel shall review and may approve research  
40 projects to be conducted in this state that would require the

1 administration of Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substances,  
2 or both, to human and animal research subjects.

3 (b) The panel shall inform the Attorney General of the head of  
4 the approved research projects that are entitled to receive quantities  
5 of cannabis pursuant to Section 11478.

6 (c) The panel may expedite the review of completed and timely  
7 applications for research projects involving the administration of  
8 Schedule I, Schedule II, or both, controlled substances that include  
9 both of the following:

10 (1) Proof of independent peer review of the study for scientific  
11 merit and rigor by the National Institutes of Health, the United  
12 States Department of Defense, the Heffter Research Institute, the  
13 United States National Science Foundation, or a comparable group  
14 within an institutional setting that has previous experience with  
15 research or grant review.

16 (2) (A) For research projects involving human subjects, an  
17 approval letter from an institutional review board established in  
18 accordance with federal law, including, but not limited to, Part 46  
19 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, demonstrating that  
20 the board's evaluation of the underlying research protocol has  
21 considered relevant federal and state laws regarding the use of  
22 human subjects, including, but not limited to, the Protection of  
23 Human Subjects in Medical Experimentation Act (Chapter 1.3  
24 (commencing with Section 24170) of Division 20) and laws  
25 governing research involving inmates, as described in Title 2.1  
26 (commencing with Section 3500) of Part 3 of the Penal Code, the  
27 Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with  
28 Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code),  
29 and laws governing birth and death certificates, as described in  
30 Part 1 (commencing with Section 102100) of Division 102. A letter  
31 submitted pursuant to this paragraph may indicate approval by the  
32 board conditioned upon the approval of the panel.

33 (B) For research projects involving animal subjects, an approval  
34 letter from an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC)  
35 established pursuant to federal law demonstrating that the IACUC  
36 has considered relevant federal and state laws regarding for the  
37 use of live, vertebrate animals in the research project, and their  
38 humane treatment.

39 (d) Applications for research projects that do not satisfy the  
40 criteria set forth in subdivision (c) shall be reviewed pursuant to

1 the standard review process and approved by a review of the full  
2 panel. The panel's process for conducting expedited review and  
3 its criteria for approving research projects described in subdivision  
4 (c) shall be published on the panel's internet website.

5 (e) Upon receiving a research project application that satisfies  
6 the criteria in subdivision (c), the panel chairperson, in consultation  
7 with the panel's executive officer, may assign two or more  
8 individual panel members to conduct an expedited review of  
9 eligible research applications and deputize those panel members  
10 to approve those applications on behalf of the panel without the  
11 need for a full panel vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the  
12 panel. Assigned panel members shall have the authority to approve  
13 research project applications eligible for expedited review that  
14 also satisfy the criteria for approval published on the panel's  
15 internet website, pursuant to subdivision (d). Individual panel  
16 members are additionally authorized to communicate and consult  
17 asynchronously with other individual panel members with  
18 complementary core competencies outside of panel meetings in  
19 order to conduct their individual reviews. Panel members assigned  
20 to conduct an expedited review pursuant to this subdivision are  
21 not a state body under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Panel  
22 members shall notify the panel's chairperson and executive officer  
23 of their decision to approve or withhold approval of the eligible  
24 research applications assigned for their review.

25 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028,  
26 and as of that date is repealed.

27 SEC. 6. Section 11480.1 is added to the Health and Safety  
28 Code, to read:

29 11480.1. (a) The panel shall review research projects to be  
30 conducted in this state that would require the administration of  
31 Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substances, or both, to human  
32 and animal subjects.

33 (b) The panel shall inform the Attorney General of the head of  
34 the approved research projects that are entitled to receive quantities  
35 of cannabis pursuant to Section 11478.

36 (c) This section shall become operative January 1, 2028.

37 SEC. 7. Section 11480.3 is added to the Health and Safety  
38 Code, to read:

39 11480.3. (a) The panel may withdraw approval from a research  
40 project for reasonable cause.



1 (b) Prior to withdrawing approval, the panel shall communicate  
2 its concerns in a written notice of pending withdrawal of approval  
3 to the head of the research project. The notice shall prescribe a  
4 course of action to address the concerns of the panel and provide  
5 a reasonable period in which to effect that cure.

6 (c) Approval may be reinstated once the concerns raised in the  
7 notice have been resolved to the reasonable satisfaction of the  
8 panel.

9 (d) Upon withdrawal of its approval, the panel shall notify the  
10 head of the research project to return or destroy any quantities of  
11 Schedule I or II controlled substances pursuant to any applicable  
12 state and federal regulations regarding the return or destruction of  
13 controlled substance research samples.

14 SEC. 8. Section 11480.5 of the Health and Safety Code is  
15 amended to read:

16 11480.5. (a) The Research Advisory Panel shall be considered  
17 a multimember advisory body solely for the purposes of Section  
18 11123.5 of the Government Code.

19 (b) The panel shall provide a report to the Legislature on or  
20 before January 1, 2026, that provides an update on the backlog of  
21 applications that includes, at minimum, the number of backlog  
22 applications that have been reviewed and how many are still  
23 pending review.

24 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028,  
25 and as of that date is repealed.

26 SEC. 9. Section 11481 of the Health and Safety Code is  
27 amended to read:

28 11481. (a) The panel shall, annually and in the manner  
29 determined by the panel, report to the Legislature and the Governor  
30 those research projects approved by the panel, the nature of each  
31 research project, whether it was approved under the expedited  
32 process set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 11480.1, and where  
33 available, the conclusions of the research project.

34 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2028,  
35 and as of that date is repealed.

36 SEC. 10. Section 11481 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
37 to read:

38 11481. (a) The panel shall, annually and in the manner  
39 determined by the panel, report to the Legislature and the Governor  
40 those research projects approved by the panel, the nature of each

1 research project, whether it was approved under the expedited  
2 process set forth in subdivision (c) of former Section 11480.1, and  
3 where available, the conclusions of the research project.

4 (b) This section shall become operative January 1, 2028.

5 SEC. 11. Section 11482 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
6 to read:

7 11482. Any rules or regulations related to the panel shall be  
8 formulated by the Attorney General in collaboration with the  
9 chairperson of the panel.

10 SEC. 12. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of  
11 this act, which amends Section 11126 of the Government Code,  
12 imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings  
13 of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies  
14 within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California  
15 Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the  
16 Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest  
17 protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

18 In order to allow the Research Advisory Panel to conduct its  
19 review and approval of research studies in a quick manner, protect  
20 the privacy of subjects, and maintain the confidentiality of  
21 proprietary data, trade secrets, potential intellectual property, or  
22 other information, the public disclosure of which is prohibited by  
23 state or federal laws, or both, and regulations, it is necessary to  
24 provide the advisory panel with this limited exemption from the  
25 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.