BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS TITLE 15, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 1, SUBCHAPTER 5 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR JUVENILE FACILITIES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

Pursuant to the authority granted by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) sections 210, 210.2, 875, and 885, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) hereby gives notice of the proposed regulatory action(s) described in this public notice. It is the intent of the BSCC to amend regulations contained in Title 15, Division 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter 5, California Code of Regulations (CCR), which is commonly known as the Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding these regulations.

PUBLIC HEARING

The BSCC did not schedule a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the BSCC will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the BSCC.

A written comment period has been established commencing on December 19, 2025, and closing on February 2, 2026. The BSCC will consider only comments received by the closing date. Submit comments to:

Board of State and Community Corrections
Attn: Amanda Ferreira, Staff Services Manager I (Specialist)
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
Phone: (916) 324-2878 | Fax: (916) 322-2461

Email: regulations@bscc.ca.gov

POST-HEARING MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF THE REGULATIONS

Following the public comment period, the BSCC may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as proposed in this notice or with modifications that are sufficiently related to the original proposed text and notice of proposed changes. Any modifications made to the full text of the proposed regulations will be clearly indicated and made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date that the BSCC adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation(s). The BSCC will accept written comments on the modified regulation text during the 15-day period. Comments should be addressed to the primary contact person as provided above.

NOTE: To be notified of any modifications, you must submit written/oral comments or request that you be notified of any modifications.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

WIC sections 210, 210.2, 875, and 885 authorizes the BSCC to establish minimum standards for juvenile facilities. The proposed regulations would implement, interpret, and make specific section 209 of the WIC.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

This rulemaking action is a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 134 (Chapter 10, Statues of 2025), which amended WIC section 209, and it clarifies the BSCC's responsibility to conduct, "at a minimum," a biennial inspection of each juvenile facility and makes specific, minimum standards related to a corrective action plan (CAP) when a juvenile facility is found to be out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities set forth in Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

WIC sections 210, 210.2, 875, and 885, authorizes the BSCC to establish minimum standards for juvenile facilities. The minimum standards include, but are not limited to, construction, operation, maintenance, qualifications and training of personnel, health and sanitary conditions, fire and life safety, security, rehabilitation programs, recreation, and treatment of youth confined in juvenile facilities. WIC section 209 requires the BSCC to conduct, at a minimum, a biennial inspection of each juvenile facility and promptly notify the operator of the juvenile facility if it finds the juvenile facility out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities. It also requires a juvenile facility to complete a CAP when the BSCC issues a notice of noncompliance and outlines potential outcomes if a juvenile facility fails to submit an approved CAP or fails to correct items of noncompliance. Amendments made to WIC section 209 authorizes the BSCC Board to delegate authority to approve or deny a CAP to the Board's executive director or deputy director, and if such authority is delegated, requires the delegee to approve or deny the CAP in accordance with criteria and considerations developed by the Board, and subsequently requires the Board to ratify or overrule the delegee's decision

The proposed adoption of section 1315 to Title 15, Division 1, Chapter 1, Subchapter 5 of the CCR would outline minimum standards related to a CAP in accordance with the provisions of WIC section 209, that became effective June 27, 2025. The proposed regulations would specify requirements for a notice of noncompliance if a juvenile facility is found to be out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities; the CAP submission process, including timelines, documentation requirements, and requests for technical assistance; the CAP review and approval process, including timelines and criteria for approval; requirements for a notice of unsuitability if a juvenile facility fails to submit an approved CAP; the Board's process and timeline to ratify or overrule a delegee's decision to approve or deny a CAP; verification for compliance; and requirements for a notice of determination of suitability if a juvenile facility fails to remedy all items of noncompliance.

Determination of Inconsistency/Incompatibility with Existing State Regulations

The BSCC has determined that these proposed regulations are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the BSCC has concluded that these are the only regulations that address minimum standards for juvenile facilities.

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

There are no comparable federal regulations or statutes.

Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Regulation

The anticipated benefits from the proposed regulations are enhanced standards and uniformity in CAP completion by juvenile facilities, consistency in determination of CAP approval or denial by the Board and their delegee, and clarity on the potential outcomes if a juvenile facility fails to comply with CAP requirements. These benefits support the mission of the BSCC to review, inspect, and promote legal and safe conditions in juvenile facilities.

The BSCC has determined that the state's environment will not be affected by the adoption of these regulations because the regulations pertain to the minimum standards for juvenile facilities. Requirements of these regulations do not address any factors that would cause a positive or negative effect on the environment.

DISCLOSURE REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The BSCC has made the following initial determinations:

Mandate on local agencies and school districts: None.

Cost or savings to any state agency: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630: None.

Other nondiscretionary costs or savings imposed on local agencies: None.

Costs or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: None.

Cost impacts on a representative private person or businesses: The BSCC is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The BSCC concludes that it is unlikely that these regulations will (1) create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California, (2) create jobs or eliminate

jobs within California, (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California; and (4) affect worker safety or the state's environment. The BSCC concludes that it is likely that these regulations will benefit the health and welfare of California residents, specifically, the health and welfare of youth and staff in juvenile facilities in a positive manner with the support of consistent CAP requirements.

Significant effect on housing costs: None.

Business Report Determination: None.

Small Business Determination: The BSCC has concluded that the implementation of this action will not affect small businesses as these regulations only apply to juvenile facilities.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the BSCC must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The BSCC invites interested parties to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period or public hearing if one is requested.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

The Rulemaking File, which includes all the information on which this proposal is based, is available for viewing by request at the BSCC's office and may also be accessed through the BSCC's website at http://www.bscc.ca.gov.

AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

If the BSCC makes modifications that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will clearly indicate the changes and make the modified text available to the public for at least 15 days before the BSCC adopts the regulations as revised. The modified text may be accessed through the BSCC website at http://www.bscc.ca.gov. Those persons who do not have access to the Internet may submit a written request to the contact persons listed below.

AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

The Initial and Final Statement of Reasons may be accessed through the BSCC website at http://www.bscc.ca.gov. Those persons who do not have access to the Internet may submit a written request to the contact persons listed below.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS; INTERNET ACCESS

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in strikeout and underline can be accessed through our website at http://www.bscc.ca.gov. Those persons who do not have access to the Internet may submit a written request to the contact persons listed below.

CONTACT PERSON FOR SUBSTANTIVE AND/OR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Inquiries concerning the proposed action may be directed to the primary contact person:

Amanda Ferreira, Staff Services Manager I (Specialist) 2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95833 Phone: (916) 324-2878 | Fax: (916) 322-2461

Email: regulations@bscc.ca.gov

The auxiliary contact person is:

Ginger Wolfe, Staff Services Manager II 2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95833 Phone: (916) 621-2886 | Fax: (916) 322-2461

Email: regulations@bscc.ca.gov