

California death penalty system 'dysfunctional'

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A state commission says California's 30-year-old death penalty system costs more than \$100 million annually to administer and is close to collapse.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice was appointed by the state Legislature to propose criminal justice reforms. It is issuing a 117-page report detailing a deeply flawed death penalty system that has the biggest backlog of cases in the nation.

The commission recommends that California double its annual amount of capital punishment spending to hire more defense lawyers and prosecutors.

There are 673 inmates on California's death row and 79 inmates there are still waiting to be appointed attorneys to prepare their automatic appeals to the California Supreme Court.

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