



## Panel faults California's death penalty

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California's system for administering the death penalty needs to be overhauled and is near collapse, a state commission reported Monday. The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice said in a report that the state's administration of the death penalty is "dysfunctional," plagued by delays of nearly twice the national average, the Los Angeles Times reported. The time from when a death sentence is announced to execution in California is 20 to 25 years, compared with the national average of 12 years, the commission said. The report also warned that the state's death row of 670 inmates will continue to explode unless the state doubles what it spends on attorneys for inmates or changes its sentencing laws. Gerald Uelman, executive director of the commission, called the report "kind of like poking a stick in a hornet's nest." The Santa Clara University law professor predicted the report would receive wide attention by policymakers. The 22-member commission, created by the Legislature to recommend improvements in the criminal justice system. The panel includes law enforcement and defense bar representatives and victim advocates.