

Homeless Deputies Meeting
Legislative Update
November 14, 2019

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

AB 58 (Rivas) – Homeless Coordinating and Finance Council

This bill requires the Governor to appoint a representative from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, which is implemented by CDE, schools are the first points of contact to identify, interface with, and assist homeless students and their families.

AB 139 (Quirk-Silva) – Emergency and Transitional Housing Act of 2019

This bill updates the requirements of local governments' housing plans to address the needs of the homeless crisis, specifically by changing the criterion for assessing the need for emergency shelters and housing to a regional level and requiring that to be accounted for as part of the Housing Element of a city or county's General Plan.

AB 143 (Quirk-Silva) – Shelter Crisis Declarations

This bill adds Alameda County, Orange County, all of the cities within those counties, and the City of San Jose to the list of jurisdictions authorized to declare a shelter crisis, which permits the suspension of state health, planning and zoning, and safety standards; those jurisdictions must then adopt a local ordinance for the design and operation of homeless shelters, which must be approved by HCD. The bill also requires these jurisdictions to develop plans to address the shelter crisis, including how to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent supportive housing.

County-sponsored AB 653 (Bloom) – State Armories

This bill allows the state to lease a portion of the West Los Angeles Armory for as long as 25 years to Los Angeles County for year-round bridge housing.

County-sponsored AB 728 (Santiago) – Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams

Previous legislation gave counties the authority to create Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams (MDTs) for homeless adults and families to facilitate the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services, and allow provider agencies to share confidential information for those purposes to ensure continuity of care. This bill creates a five-year pilot program in the following counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara and Ventura) to expand the scope of an MDR to include serving individuals who are at risk of homelessness. The program would sunset on January 1, 2025.

County-supported AB 761 (Nazarian) – State Armories: Homeless Shelters

This bill allows, at the sole discretion of the State, the use of any armory deemed vacant by the California Military Department throughout the year by the county or city in which

the armory is located for the purpose of providing temporary shelter from hazardous weather conditions for homeless persons.

AB 1188 (Gabriel) – Persons At-Risk of Homelessness

This bill creates a legal framework allowing a tenant, with the written approval of the owner or landlord, to take in a person who is at risk of homelessness. It includes a number of protections for both the landlord and tenant, including the ability for the tenant to remove the person at risk of homelessness on short notice.

County-supported AB 1197 (Santiago) – CEQA Exemptions

This bill provides a CEQA exemption for supportive housing and emergency shelters funded by the State's 2018 and 2019 homeless package, Measure H, and Proposition HHH. This bill went into effect immediately, and sunsets on January 1, 2025.

AB 1235 (Chu) – Youth Homelessness Prevention Centers

This bill renames the runaway and homeless youth shelters run by the Department of Social Services as "youth homelessness and prevention centers," expands the categories of youth for which the centers are required to provide services to also include youth at risk of homelessness and youth exhibiting status offender behavior, and expands the time a youth can stay in the center from 21 to 90 days.

SB 211 (Beall) – Lease of State Highway Properties

This bill authorizes Caltrans to lease its property to local governments for the purpose of an emergency shelter or feeding program for \$1 per month plus administrative fees.

County-supported SB 450 (Umberg) – CEQA Exemptions for Motel Conversions

This bill provides a CEQA exemption until January 2025 for hotels converted to supportive housing. This bill sunsets on January 1, 2025.

SB 687 (Rubio) – Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

This bill requires the Governor to appoint a representative of the state public higher education system to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.

SB 744 (Caballero) – CEQA Exemptions

This bill provides a CEQA exemption for supportive housing and No Place Like Home projects.

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

AB 891 (Burke) - Safe Parking for the Homeless

This bill would have required cities and counties with a population of 330,000 and above to establish a safe parking program for those experiencing homelessness. In his veto message, the Governor suggested that local governments are best suited to make decisions about the types of solutions to address homelessness in their communities.

County-supported AB 1702 (Rivas) – Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

This bill would have required the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2022, recommendations for the statutory changes to streamline the delivery of services and enhance the effectiveness of homeless programs in the state. In his veto message, the Governor noted that the Council is currently developing a blueprint for how state agencies and departments should align and prioritize their programs and resources, and how the state can support and complement regional solutions to homelessness.

PENDING DISPOSITION IN 2020

County-supported AB 302 (Berman) – Safe Parking for Community College Students

This would require a community college campus that has parking facilities on campus to grant overnight access to those facilities, on or before July 1, 2020, to any homeless student who is enrolled in coursework, has paid enrollment fees that have not been waived, and is in good standing with the community college, for the purpose of sleeping in the student's vehicle overnight. The author has announced his intention to continue working on this bill in 2020.

County-supported AB 307 (Reyes) – Homeless Youth Grant Program

This bill would require the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to develop a grant program to support homeless youth and to prevent and end homelessness among California's youth.

County-supported AB 816 (Quirk-Silva) – Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool Program

This bill would establish the California Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool Program, administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, to make grants to cities, counties and continuums of care for housing assistance to specified populations through one streamlined, competitive application.