
SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair

2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No: AB 134
Author: Committee on Budget
Version: June 27, 2021 As amended
Urgency: No
Consultant: Scott Ogus

Hearing Date: June 30, 2021
Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Mental Health Services Act: county program and expenditure plans

Summary: This bill is an omnibus health trailer bill, and contains changes to implement the 2021-22 budget.

Proposed Law: This bill makes technical and clarifying statutory revisions affecting mental health programs necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2021. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes a county to extend the effective timeframe of a three-year program and expenditure plan for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) expenditures or an annual update to include the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years, if the county was unable to complete and submit the plan or update due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- 2) Requires counties to submit the three-year program and expenditure plan or annual update to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by July 1, 2022.
- 3) Authorizes counties to, during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years, use funds from MHSA prudent reserves for mental health expenditures to children and adults, including housing assistance.
- 4) Authorizes counties to determine allocations of MHSA funds within community services and supports, and prevention and early intervention categories for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years.
- 5) Suspends reversion of unspent MHSA funds required to be reverted as of July 1, 2019, or July 1, 2020, until July 1, 2021.

Fiscal Effect: This bill appropriates \$187 million from the Federal Trust Fund to DHCS to support community mental health services, pursuant to funding awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Program.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

-- END --