

(Without Reference to File)

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 134 (Committee on Budget)

As Amended June 27, 2021

2/3 vote. Budget Bill Appropriation Takes Effect Immediately

SUMMARY

This is a Health Trailer Bill for 2021-22. It contains necessary changes related to the Budget Act of 2021, including various statutory changes to implement the 2021-22 budget.

Senate Amendments

This bill extends various flexibilities, related to the use and management of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding that have been provided to counties in response to the Public Health Emergency, for an additional (2021-22) year. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes counties to spend down their local MHSA prudent reserves, temporarily exempting them from regulatory requirements to first request and receive authorization from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS);
- 2) Authorizes counties to spend funds within Community Services and Supports (CSS) program components, regardless of category restrictions, in order to meet local needs;
- 3) Authorizes counties to use their existing approved Three-Year Plan or Annual Update to expend local MHSA funds if a county behavioral health director certifies to DHCS that they were unable to submit their new Three-Year Plan due to COVID-19-related reasons;
- 4) Makes the provisions of this measure severable;
- 5) Appropriates \$186,973,000 in federal funds to DHCS to support community mental health services in 2021-22;
- 6) Finds and declares that the amendments made by this measure are consistent with, and further the intent of, the Mental Health Services Act; and
- 7) Declares that this is a budget bill, which is related to the budget and the Budget Bill, and will take effect immediately.

COMMENTS

The flexibilities contained in this bill, that have been provided to counties related to their MHSA expenditures, are intended to help counties respond to the significant increase in demand for mental health services that has resulted from the pandemic. These flexibilities are being extended one more year, until June 30, 2022.

This is a budget trailer bill within the overall 2021-22 budget package which affects the Department of Health Care Services and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

According to the Author

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill appropriates \$186,973,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds to DHCS for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Program in 2021-22.

VOTES:

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-18-5

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Daly, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Stone, Ting, Villapudua, Ward, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

NO: Bigelow, Chen, Choi, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Davies, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Kiley, Lackey, Mathis, Nguyen, Patterson, Seyarto, Smith, Voepel, Waldron

ABS, ABST OR NV: Frazier, Kamlager, Mayes, Quirk, Valladares

UPDATED

VERSION: June 27, 2021

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FN: 0000959