Date of Hearing: July 7, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair SB 258 (Laird) – As Amended April 26, 2021

Policy Committee: Aging and Long Term Care Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status to the list of noneconomic factors that determine "greatest social need" for services under the Older Californians Act (OCA).

FISCAL EFFECT:

The California Department of Aging (CDA) indicates minor and absorbable costs to implement this bill.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill seeks to address cultural and social isolation caused by HIV status by ensuring older people with HIV have access to the programs and services administered through CDA. According to the author, "Ensuring older Californians living with HIV are considered among those with the greatest social need means important programs and services will be more readily available to them."
- 2) **Background.** Recent advancements in HIV treatment allow many people living with HIV to live long and healthy lives. For this reason, the number of older people living with HIV is increasing. According to a 2018 California HIV Surveillance Report published by the California Department of Public Health, over half of the people living with HIV in California are now aged 50 years or older. In addition, in 2018, 15% of newly diagnosed HIV patients were age 50 and older.
- 3) **Greatest Social Need.** Existing law requires CDA, in allocating specified state and federal funding to older individuals, to ensure that priority consideration is given to elderly individuals identified as having the greatest economic or social need. Greatest social need is statutorily defined as the need caused by noneconomic factors, including physical and mental disabilities, language barriers, cultural or social isolation, including isolation caused by racial and ethnic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, that restricts an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks or threatens an individual's capacity to live independently.

This bill adds HIV status to the list of noneconomic factors causing isolation for purposes of determining greatest social need.

4) **CDA Services.** The CDA administers funds allocated under the federal Older Americans Act, the state Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act and the Medicaid (Medi-Cal in

California) program for the purpose of providing programs and services to older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the state. The CDA contracts with 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that provide services directly or through contracts with community providers. Services provided include home adaptation funding, provision of assistive devices, support groups, nutrition programs, including congregate nutrition programs and home-delivered meal programs, disease prevention and health promotion programs, family caregiver support programs, including training and education, and supportive services programs.

5) **Prior Legislation.** AB 2719 (Irwin), Chapter 202, Statutes of 2018, added sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to the definition of communities to be considered for programs and services administered through CDA.

Analysis Prepared by: Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081