

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1474 (Reyes)

As Amended September 5, 2023

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

This bill adds veterans to the list of population groups that the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) must consider in the Statewide Housing Plan (SHP), and adds the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to the list of state departments HCD must consult with in the development of the state's housing strategy.

**Senate Amendments**

Make technical changes for chaptering purposes.

**COMMENTS**

*Veteran Housing Needs in California:* According to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, on a single night in 2022 approximately 10,395 veterans in California were experiencing homelessness, with 7,392 of those veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness. A majority of California's veterans are considered cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing-related costs. Additionally, veterans face higher risks of homelessness than the general population, and 31% of the nation's homeless veterans are located in California.

*Statewide Housing Plan:* Every four years, HCD is required to produce a SHP, in coordination with the private sector and state, regional, and local housing and planning agencies. The most recent plan was released in March of 2022. According to the most recent version, "The Statewide Housing Plan lays out a vision to ensure every Californian has a safe, stable, and affordable home. The state is working towards three objectives to achieve this vision:

- 1) Keep Californians in their homes;
- 2) Produce more affordable and climate-smart housing; and
- 3) Continue to act with urgency to address homelessness and housing needs.

"The plan describes why we need to act now to address the state's housing affordability crisis, what we know about California's housing crisis, including how we got here and growing challenges, what the housing needs in California are, what our state and local governments are currently doing to address the problem, where we are going in the future, and how we will track our progress."

The SHP is required to contain a general housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups. Those groups are called out in the statute but HCD has the authority to identify other specific population groups as well. The statutory groups listed include: elderly persons, persons with disabilities, large families, families where a female is the head of household, and farmworker households. To inform the strategy and the needs of specific populations, HCD is also required to consult with various state departments, including the California Department of Aging, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department

of Health Care Services, the Employment Development Department, the State Department of Developmental Services, and other state departments or agencies as needed. This bill would add veterans to the list of special populations the SHP must address. HCD would be required to consult with CalVet in developing the SHP as it pertains to veterans housing needs.

### **According to the Author**

"California's Statewide Housing Plan describes the state's vision to ensure that all Californians have a safe and affordable home in which to live. Currently, the plan is required to include a housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups. AB 1474 adds veterans to the list of population groups included in the plan and requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to also consult with the California Department of Veterans Affairs in developing the plan. Many veterans, especially low-income veterans, have trouble finding affordable housing, and it is critical that we work on policies and programs that meet the housing needs of veterans. AB 1474 requires that HCD consider and incorporate the housing needs of veterans in the statewide housing plan so that we work to prevent veterans from experiencing housing instability."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies, this bill will lead to veterans having better representation and access in housing, which is critical because California continues to have the highest population of homeless veterans in the country.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, minor and absorbable costs to HCD and CalVet.

## **VOTES:**

### **ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 8-0-0**

**YES:** Wicks, Joe Patterson, Wendy Carrillo, Gabriel, Kalra, Quirk-Silva, Sanchez, Ward

### **ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 16-0-0**

**YES:** Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Robert Rivas, Sanchez, Weber, Wilson

### **ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0-5**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Connolly, Megan Dahle, Davies, Dixon, Essayli, Mike Fong, Vince Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lackey, Lee, Low, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Jim Patterson, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Valencia, Villapudua, Waldron, Ward, Weber, Wilson, Wood, Zbur, Rendon  
**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Flora, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Wallis, Wicks

**UPDATED**

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