

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1899 (Caloza) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee:	Housing and Community Development	Vote:	12 - 0
	Human Services		6 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes the Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention (Office) within the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to reduce youth homelessness in the state to functional zero.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Defines “functional zero” as the condition in which the number of youth experiencing homelessness does not exceed the capacity to provide youth with permanent housing.
- 2) Establishes the Office within Cal ICH and gives the Office the following responsibilities:
  - a) Developing and overseeing the implementation of a comprehensive framework to reduce youth homelessness to functional zero, as specified. The framework must be completed by September 15, 2027.
  - b) Leading the coordination of funding, policy, and practice to prevent youth homelessness across federal and state agencies and departments with jurisdiction over the state’s child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice systems.
  - c) Providing support, advice, or guidance to local agencies and entities, including, but not limited to, county child welfare agencies, and county probation departments, on funding, policy, and practice.
  - d) Developing best practices and policy recommendations, with proposed timelines for completion.
  - e) Gathering data, including by initiating data sharing agreements, and analyzing the data to evaluate the progress toward desired outcomes.
  - f) Creating and posting to its website, by December 15, 2027, a publicly accessible dashboard tracking the Office’s progress toward its goals.
- 3) Requires the Office to consult with a 12-member advisory committee with specified membership, to be appointed by the Governor by March 1, 2027, and requires the advisory committee to meet by June 1, 2027, and at least twice each calendar year thereafter.

- 4) Requires the Office to report on its progress toward its goals to the Legislature and Cal ICH by December 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, and to post the report to its website.

#### **FISCAL EFFECT:**

Cal ICH estimates General Fund costs of \$1.22 million in the first year and \$1.15 million annually thereafter for staff to lead statewide coordination across various stakeholders, develop a framework with measurable goals, and align funding and policy toward achieving functional zero youth homelessness.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

No young person should have to choose between school and the streets or between meaningful work and the street economy. No young person should be sleeping on a city bus or camping on a sidewalk. Creating an Office of Homeless Youth, as envisioned in [this bill], will ensure that there are programs specifically designed to support and serve youth and young adults to prevent unnecessary suffering and prevent them from growing up and becoming chronically homeless.

- 2) **Background.** *Cal ICH.* In 2016, SB 1380 (Mitchell), Chapter 847, created the Homelessness Coordination and Financing Council (later renamed Cal ICH) to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. Cal ICH is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Housing First guidelines and regulations, and developing and implementing a statewide action plan to prevent and end homelessness. SB 918 (Weiner), Chapter 841, Statutes of 2018, required Cal ICH to set specific, measurable goals aimed at preventing and ending homelessness among youth in the state. In addition, SB 918 required Cal ICH to coordinate with young people experiencing homelessness, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the appropriate agencies and departments to coordinate a spectrum of funding policy and practice efforts related to young people experiencing homelessness.

This bill creates an office focused on ending youth homelessness that largely duplicates the mission of Cal ICH. According to the bill's sponsors, the California Coalition for Youth and Inner City Law Center, "While Cal ICH is tasked with setting goals to reduce youth homelessness, a state-level Office, focused exclusively on leading California to achieve function zero in youth and young adult homelessness, would ensure these goals are fulfilled."

**Governor's Reorganization Plan.** Existing law, the Governor's Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 2025, beginning July 1, 2026, eliminates the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency and instead establishes the Business and Consumer Services Agency and the California Housing and Homelessness Agency. The plan also, among other things, establishes Cal ICH as an independent entity within the California Housing and Homelessness Agency. This bill establishes the Office within Cal ICH under the newly restructured agency.

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