

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1924 (Gabriel) – As Amended March 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Housing and Community Development      Vote: 12 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to develop and publicly issue a statewide homelessness prevention strategy by July 1, 2027.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires HCD, by July 1, 2027, to develop and publicly issue a statewide homelessness prevention strategy that includes, among other elements:
  - a) A homelessness prevention action plan for each relevant agency developed by HCD and the relevant agency that details specific actions the agency will take to contribute to housing stability and homelessness prevention, and the timeline for those actions.

Defines “relevant agency” as any state agency or department that affects, or has the potential to affect, housing stability and the prevention of homelessness, and enumerates 12 such agencies.
  - b) Recommendations for legislation or executive action to implement, coordinate and integrate, and annually evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of each homelessness prevention action plan, as specified.
  - c) Evidence-based model homelessness prevention practices identified or designed and developed by HCD that include, among other items, identification of persons most at risk of homelessness through evidence-based risk factors and the most effective and efficient interventions to prevent homelessness.
- 2) Requires HCD to offer the model homelessness prevention practices described above as guidance to local programs and to propose methods to integrate relevant practices into state agencies and programs.
- 3) Requires HCD to annually review and update the strategy and publish any revisions.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) HCD estimates ongoing General Fund (GF) costs, likely in the low millions of dollars, for additional staff to perform extensive coordination with other relevant state agencies, create

and align best practices and data, and annually update and adjust the strategy to meet current conditions.

- 2) The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as a relevant state agency under this bill, anticipates additional workload to be absorbable using existing staffing and resources. DHCS anticipates increased administrative burden due to duplicative planning, reporting, and data infrastructure requirements.
- 3) Costs to additional relevant state agencies are of an unknown amount, but likely minor and absorbable (GF and various special funds).

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:

To make meaningful progress and address California's homelessness epidemic, we can't have more people entering homelessness than exiting it. Prevention is a cost-effective and critical piece of solving this problem. [This bill] would create a statewide homelessness prevention strategy, along with a collection of evidence-based best practices that can guide programs and agencies that work to stop people from falling into homelessness in the first place. This legislation will help prevent homelessness before it can occur, better protecting our state's most vulnerable residents and preserving limited state resources.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law requires HCD to oversee and implement various housing programs. Existing law also establishes various programs to prevent homelessness or assist persons experiencing homelessness, including the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program. Homelessness prevention programs are funded through local sources, through the state HHAP program, and through federal sources, including the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and the Continuum of Care program. In HHAP Round 5, Prevention and Shelter Diversion programs accounted for roughly 5% of total funds awarded.

In 2016, SB 1380 (Mitchell), Chapter 847, created the Homelessness Coordination and Financing Council (HCFC) to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. HCFC was later named the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH). Cal-ICH is made up of all state agencies or departments that operate programs that provide housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The council meets quarterly and has an advisory committee, which includes a currently or formerly homeless youth who lives in California. One of the listed statutory goals of the Council is to prevent and end homelessness among California's youth.