

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2146 (Stefani)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CalICH) to complete a comprehensive statewide study on Coordinated Entry Systems (CES), operated by Continuums of Care (CoCs), and its role in connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness and affordable housing including supportive housing by July 1, 2028.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Delete the contents of the bill.
- 2) Require the CalICH to complete a comprehensive statewide study on CES and its role in connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness and affordable housing including supportive housing by July 1, 2028.

COMMENTS

Coordinated Entry Systems: In 2012, HUD began requiring CoCs to use a CES, and in 2017 the Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) mandated the use of CES for all CoCs as a condition of receiving federal funds. A CoC is a federally created entity that is responsible for administering federal funding to address homelessness, collecting data that is inputted into the Homelessness Management Information System, and managing the CES.

CES is a CoC-established system-wide process to quickly and equitably coordinate the access, assessment, prioritization, and referrals to housing and services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. CES is an evidence-based strategy that focuses on housing and service coordination designed to link people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing solution based on their needs. CES is also meant to remove racial bias in who is prioritized for housing and services, and prioritize people based on need. Significant racial disproportionality exists among those experiencing homelessness, with people who identify as Black/African American very overrepresented. CES prioritizes individuals for housing based on the length of time they have experienced homelessness.

Several state programs create housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The NPLH program was created in 2013 to house people experiencing homelessness with mental health challenges, funded by a 1% tax on millionaires in the state. The LIHTC and MHP both include set-asides that fund housing specifically for people experiencing homelessness. Each of these programs requires that a developer use CES to fill a vacancy when a tenant moves out. According to the sponsor of this bill, the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH), although CES is an important tool for creating equity and tracking data and outcomes, a small share of vacant supportive housing units take over six months to fill.

Filling Vacancies: Research completed by the Harvard Kennedy School surveyed 151 CoC leaders across 44 states and conducted interviews with 26 representatives to discuss the pressing challenges and opportunities in managing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) systems. The results suggested that many jurisdictions have potentially persistent vacancies and prolonged

referral processes in their PSH systems. These vacancies were attributed to challenges with CES including limitations in data systems, complex requirements for accessing PSH, and long, manually intensive placement processes. Many jurisdictions and PSH providers reported having units that sit empty for months at a time. A UC Berkeley Turner Center Study that evaluated PSH also found that the capacity of CES varies across the state, with some organizations underfunded and understaffed. The lack of resources for CES operation has led to slow referrals for some developments. Additional challenges occur when a development serves only a sub-population of people experiencing homelessness, like veterans and individuals with substance abuse and mental health disorders. Because CES is meant to be equitable and prioritize people for referral based on the length of time they have been homeless, the person referred may not fit into this subcategory of the available unit, leading to a longer vacancy.

According to the Author

"At its core, AB 2146 allows the state to examine what's working in our response to homelessness-- and what's not. Specifically, this bill instructs Cal ICH to conduct a study into the procedures and outcomes of California's Coordinated Entry System, and to report its findings to the Legislature. This bill also instructs Cal ICH to consult with important stakeholders, such as those with lived experience and COCs, in the process of conducting the study. The findings of this study can further inform how California should shape its homelessness policy in order to get people housed faster."

Arguments in Support

None on file that reflect the current contents of the bill.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The California Housing and Homelessness Agency (CHHA) estimates costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for a contract to complete the comprehensive review of compliance documentation and identifying compliance requirements, alternative methods of compliance, and opportunities to streamline documentation, as well as implementing revised compliance requirements based on the review. (General Fund)
- 2) The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) would incur minor workload costs in excess of \$50,000 to amend program guidelines to incorporate changes specified in the bill and to conduct ongoing oversight and other activities to verify that units qualify for a DASH designation, as well as respond to technical assistance requests from developers and other interested parties. HCD indicates that these costs are likely absorbable within existing resources. (General Fund)

The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) costs to update program guidelines would be minor and absorbable. (General Fund, Tax Credit Allocation Fee Account)

VOTES:**ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 10-1-1**

YES: Haney, Patterson, Ávila Farías, Caloza, Garcia, Kalra, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Wicks, Wilson

NO: Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-1-2

YES: Wicks, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Caloza, Ellis, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 59-11-10

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Patterson, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

UPDATED

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