
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 678 (Lee) - Interagency Council on Homelessness

Version: February 14, 2025

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0, HOUSING
10 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 678 would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify recommended policies and best practices for providing inclusive and culturally competent services to LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.

Fiscal Impact: The California Interagency Council on Homelessness estimates that in order to coordinate with members of the LGBTQ+ community and develop recommendations, it would require \$1.5 million (General Fund) in one-time contractor costs to conduct extensive community engagement, contract with facilitators, travel reimbursement, participant stipends, translation services, and project management support, for meaningful, statewide engagement.

Background: The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) was established to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. Cal ICH was created to oversee the implementation of "Housing First" policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on the idea that homeless individuals should be provided shelter and stability before underlying issues can be successfully addressed. Housing First utilizes a tenant screening process that promotes accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances or participation in services. Cal ICH also manages the state's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) which captures local data collected by Continuums of Care (COCs) through Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS) to help coordinate the state's response to homelessness.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require Cal ICH to coordinate with representatives from LGBTQ+ communities, including, but not limited to, housing providers, nonprofit organizations, advocates, and researchers, to do all of the following:
 - Identify recommended policies and best practices for providing inclusive and culturally competent services to LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.
 - Develop recommendations to do all of the following:
 - Provide education, training, and resources to improve culturally competent services for LGBTQ+ people in state homelessness programs.

- Expand data collection to understand the needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ people in state homelessness programs.
- Prevent discrimination, harassment, and violence against members of the LGBTQ+ community in state homelessness programs.
- Require Cal ICH, on or before January 1, 2027, to submit a report on the recommendations required above, to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Senate Committee on Housing, or their successor committees.

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