

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 678 (Lee)

As Amended September 4, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CA-ICH) to identify policies and best practices for culturally competent services for LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires CA-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:
  - a) Identify and recommended policies and best practices for providing inclusive and culturally competent services to LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness; and
  - b) Develop recommendations to do all of the following:
    - i) Provide education, training, and resources to improve culturally competent services for LGBTQ+ people in state homelessness programs;
    - ii) Expand data collection to understand the needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ people in state homelessness programs; and
    - iii) Prevent discrimination, harassment, and violence against members of the LGBTQ+ community in state homelessness programs.
- 2) Defines "state homelessness programs" to mean those programs that are funded, in whole or in part, by the state with the express purpose of addressing or preventing homelessness or providing services to people experiencing homelessness.
- 3) Requires CA-ICH, on or before July 1, 2027, to submit a report on the recommendations to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Senate Committee on Housing, or their successor committees.

**Senate Amendments**

Move the date that CA-ICH must submit the required report from January 1, 2027 to July 1, 2027.

**COMMENTS**

*CA-ICH:* In 2016, SB 1380 (Mitchell), Chapter 847, created the Homelessness Coordinating and Financing Council which was renamed the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CA-ICH) in 2021 (AB 1220 (L. Rivas), Chapter 398) to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. CA-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. CA-ICH also manages the state's Homelessness Information Data 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. All 44 CoCs in the state have entered into contracts to provide their HMIS data to CA-ICH. HDIS is intended to give the state a more accurate picture of the local homelessness response system and inform the state's response to homelessness. AB 977 (Gabriel), Chapter 397, Statutes of 2021 required grantees of state homelessness programs to enter data to the local HMIS system to help coordinate the state's response to homelessness. The ultimate goal of HDIS is to match data on homelessness to programs impacting homeless recipients of state programs, such as the Medi-Cal program and CalWORKs. CA-ICH is required to set goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth, including integrating and coordinating efforts to prevent homelessness among youth in the child welfare system and juvenile justice system.

CA-ICH also developed a five year Action Plan For Preventing and Ending Homelessness in 2020 and just updated the plan for 2025-2027. Currently, according to HDIS data, for every five individuals who access homelessness services in California, only one is able to access permanent housing that year, leaving a gap of four people who continue to experience homelessness. Over the course of this Plan, calendar years 2025 through 2027, CA-ICH aims to reduce that gap in half, so that for every five people served, three people are placed in housing during the year. The Action Plan sets out goals intended to measure progress toward our north star of providing housing and services to everyone experiencing homelessness. The goals include:

- 1) Increase the annual percentage of people who move into emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing after experiencing unsheltered homelessness, from 42% to at least 70%.
- 2) Increase the annual percentage of people existing homelessness into permanent housing from 18% to at least 60%.
- 3) Ensure that at least 95% of people who move into permanent housing do not experience homelessness within six months.
- 4) Increase access to publicly-funded health and social safety net services for people at-risk of homelessness in order to address health and economic vulnerabilities.
- 5) Permit more than 1.5 million homes, with no less than 710,000 of those meeting the needs of low- and very low-income households.

*Funding for Homeless Youth:* Since 2018, the budget has included funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) to assist big cities (with a population over 300,000), counties, and CoCs to assist the local response system. Ten percent of funds from HHAP goes to addressing youth homelessness. Between 2018-2022, \$276 million went to supporting local efforts to reduce youth homelessness. Based on the Point-in-Time (PIT) count Homelessness among unaccompanied and parenting youth went down 21% from 2020-2022, while overall homelessness rose by 6%. In 2022, unaccompanied and parenting homeless youth comprised 6% of the total homeless population in California, the lowest percentage since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development started to measure youth homelessness in

2015. California's decrease in youth homelessness is 2.6 times greater than the reduction in all other states.

The 2024 California Point-in-Time (PIT) count does not provide a specific number for LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness. However, LGBTQ+ identifying people and particularly LGBTQ+ youth, are disproportionately affected by homelessness. Estimates suggest that up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+, compared to only 10% of the overall youth population. LGBTQ+ youth may be rejected or expelled from their homes due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. A significant percentage of homeless LGBTQ+ youth report being forced to leave their homes due to mistreatment or fear of mistreatment based on their identity.

This bill would require CA-ICH to develop policies and best practices inclusive and culturally competent services to LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness.

### **According to the Author**

"LGBTQ+ Californians experience homelessness and housing insecurity at disproportionately high rates. LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their peers, 48% of older same-sex couples faced discrimination when seeking housing, and nearly one in three transgender people report experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives. Due to bias and systemic barriers in housing and shelter programs, maintaining safe, stable, and affordable housing remains a challenge. This problem is compounded by the rise of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, legislation, and violence both in California and across the country, disproportionately impacting transgender and non-binary individuals. AB 678 will require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to work with LGBTQ+ advocates and service providers to identify and recommend best practices and policies to local agencies administering homelessness programs."

### **Arguments in Support**

According to Housing California, "by ensuring California's homelessness services are inclusive and affirming, we can improve housing outcomes for LGBTQ+ Californians, help connect people to stable housing, and reduce the risk of LGBTQ+ residents returning to homelessness. This bill strengthens the state's broader efforts to reduce homelessness while ensuring all Californians, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, have equitable access to safe and supportive housing."

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

## **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Cal ICH anticipates one-time costs of an unknown amount, but likely over \$150,000, to conduct stakeholder engagement and coordinate with members of the LGBTQ+ community experiencing homelessness to develop and provide meaningful recommendations. Regardless of the cost, and in keeping with this committee's custom and practice, any bill that has the primary purpose of creating a "workgroup" will move to the suspense file.

**VOTES:****ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 10-0-2**

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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Ta, Tangipa

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4**

**YES:** Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0-12**

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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Chen, Dixon, Ellis, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

**UPDATED**

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