

SENATE THIRD READING  
SB 748 (Richardson)  
As Amended September 2, 2025  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

Authorizes the use of Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program to assist local jurisdictions that are urban communities within a county with operating safe parking sites while locating interim or permanent housing.

### Major Provisions

- 1) Allows funding to be used for the acquisition of sites for safe parking, operation of the site, services to the safe parking site, and increasing safe parking site hours.
- 2) Requires California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) to submit quarterly reports on the distribution of funds for the purposes of ERF to the chairs of the committees of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, the Assembly Committee on Budget, the Senate Committee on Housing, the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, and the Senate and Assembly Committees on Human Services starting April 1, 2026. Sunsets this requirement on April 1, 2030.

## COMMENTS

*California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (CASPEH):* The University of California, San Francisco Benioff Housing and Homelessness Institute conducted the CASPEH, the largest representative study of homelessness since the mid-1990s and the first large-scale representative study to use mixed methods (surveys and in-depth interviews). They administered questionnaires to nearly 3,200 participants and conducted in-depth interviews with 365 participants. Their report provides evidence to help shape the state's policy response to homelessness. The median age of participants was 47 (range 18-89). Participants who report a Black (26%) or Native American or Indigenous identity (12%) were overrepresented compared to the overall California population. Thirty-five percent of participants identified as Latino/x

The report found that people experiencing homelessness in California are Californians. Nine out of ten participants lost their last housing in California; 75% of participants lived in the same county as their last housing.

The median monthly household income in the six months prior to homelessness across all CASPEH participants was \$960. Almost all participants met the criteria to be considered "extremely low-income" or making less than 30% of the Area Median Income. Participants' inability to afford housing was both the underlying cause of homelessness and the primary barrier to their returning to housing. Evidence and interviews with people who are experiencing homelessness show that a small amount of shallow subsidy could keep people from falling into homelessness. This finding was true throughout California, not only in the high-cost coastal regions.

Twenty percent of participants who reported current regular substance use indicated that they wanted treatment, but were unable to receive it. Evidence shows that substance use treatment is most effective among those who choose to engage with it. A higher proportion of individuals

who used substances regularly live in unsheltered environments. There is a need for increased access for those who want it, particularly those in unsheltered settings. Promising models for low-barrier, outreach-focused services (including medication treatment) should be expanded.

*Safe Parking Sites:* According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, there has been a significant increase in cars and RVs being used for temporary housing during the housing crisis. People choose to live in their cars when they have no other option for permanent shelters, and temporary or congregate living shelters are not an option due to feeling safer in a vehicle, keeping a family together, or staying with a pet. It may also be easier to hold on to belongings when living in a vehicle. In areas where multiple people congregate to park their RVs and live in them, cities have raised concerns about sanitation and abandoned vehicles that are difficult to move because a special tow truck is needed. Also, due to the size, some safe parking sites do not allow RVs. As a way to address the growing use of cars and RVs for housing, safe parking sites, including ones specific to RVs, are being established across the state. Safe parking sites can, but may not necessarily, include services like sanitation (e.g., portable or indoor toilets, handwashing, showering, changing stations), food, child care/tutoring, documentation services, counseling, financial help for housing or vehicle issues, or both, and housing placement services.

*ERF:* ERF was created in response to the growing number of encampments. ERF funds efforts that resolve critical encampment concerns, and transition individuals into interim shelter with clear pathways to permanent housing or directly into permanent housing, using data informed, non-punitive, low-barrier, person-centered, Housing First, and coordinated approaches. HCD administers ERF as a competitive grant program for CoCs, cities, and counties to fund actionable, person-centered local proposals that resolve the experience of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. Applicants utilizing ERF must demonstrate how they intend to use the funds to connect all of the individuals living in an encampment to services, supports, and housing, and also demonstrate how they will coordinate with local partners to transition those living in encampments into permanent housing solutions. Funds must be used to transition people to interim housing with a clear path to permanent housing or directly to permanent housing.

This bill would specify that local jurisdictions and CoCs can use ERF to support safe parking sites that move people living in RVs and vehicles into interim and permanent housing. The bill also adds additional reporting requirements on the use of ERF to allow the Legislature to evaluate the program and its impact on homelessness.

### **According to the Author**

According to the author: "SB 748 is designed to assist local jurisdictions with acquiring additional locations for temporary housing and safe parking sites as well as extend the hours of safe parking sites through the expanded use of the Encampment Resolution Funding program."

### **Arguments in Support**

Several cities are in support of this bill because it explicitly allows the use of ERF for safe parking sites and to move people living in RVs temporarily into permanent housing.

### **Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations: HCD estimates minor and absorbable costs.

**VOTES****SENATE FLOOR: 38-0-2**

**YES:** Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Cervantes, Reyes

**ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 11-0-1**

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

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Kalra

**ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 7-0-0**

**YES:** Lee, Castillo, Calderon, Elhawary, Jackson, Celeste Rodriguez, Tangipa

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

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

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

**UPDATED**

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