
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 748
Author: Richardson (D), et al.
Amended: 9/2/25
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/7/25
AYES: Arreguín, Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Limón, Pérez

SENATE HOUSING COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/29/25
AYES: Wahab, Seyarto, Arreguín, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cortese, Durazo,
Gonzalez, Grayson, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/28/25
AYES: 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
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cervantes, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-1, 9/8/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Encampment Resolution Funding program: safe parking sites:
reporting

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill allows the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program to apply to safe parking sites and creates additional reporting requirements for the ERF program by requiring local jurisdictions that include safe parking sites in their application to describe specified details.

Assembly Amendments change the findings of the bill to include people centered language, moves the bill language to a new section and requires applicants to include a description of how they plan to use the funds for safe parking sites. Amendments also expand the bill to apply to all local jurisdictions beyond urban communities, removes the requirement that Cal-ICH to report on a quarterly to the chairs of specified legislative committees on the funding distributed for the ERF program and instead require the information to be included in the annual report by HCD. Amendments also require the Legislative Analyst's Office to evaluate the data reported by HCD in their annual ERF report.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the ERF program to provide competitive grants to local jurisdictions to support homeless encampment resolution and rehousing efforts. (Health and Safety Code [HSC] 50250 et seq.)
- 2) Defines "local jurisdiction" as a city, including a charter city, a county, including a charter county, or a city and county, including a charter city and county, for the purposes of the ERF Program. (HSC 50250(j))
- 3) States the goal of the ERF Program is to increase collaboration between the council, local jurisdictions, and continuums of care in order to:
 - a. Assist local jurisdictions in ensuring the safety and wellness of people experiencing homelessness in encampments.
 - b. Provide grants to resolve critical encampment concerns and transition individuals into safe and stable housing.
 - c. Encourage addressing encampment concerns with data- informed, coordinated efforts. (HSC 50251 (a))
- 4) Requires California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) to approve grant applications based on specified criteria including the applicant's ability to carry out the proposal and applicant's ability to develop a detailed service delivery plan, including a description of how individuals will be served with permanent housing solutions. (HSC 50251(c))
- 5) Requires Cal-ICH report to the chairs of the relevant fiscal and policy committees in both houses on the outcomes, learnings, and best practice models identified through this program. (HSC 50254(g))

- 6) Requires each grant recipient to submit a final report on the use of funds no later than April 1 of the year following the expiration of the encumbrance period of funds. (HSC 50254.5)

This bill:

- 1) Makes findings and declarations about the use of recreational vehicles (RVs) by people experiencing homelessness.
- 2) Requires local jurisdictions that plan to include safe parking sites for people living in cars and RVs while interim or permanent housing is being located in their ERF applications to describe how the applicant will acquire sites for safe parking, operate the site, provide services at the site and increase safe parking sit hours.
- 3) Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development, in its annual report to the Governor and Legislature to include all of the data as currently required by law for funding appropriated in 2024-25 and 2025- 26 fiscal years. Makes the report requirement inoperative after the final round of program funds are reported.

Comments

According to the author, “In January 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported 187,084 people experiencing homelessness and a significant portion of these individuals are living in recreational vehicles (RVs). In the U.S., 25%, or 1 in 4 of the homeless are unhoused here in California.

In a recent Supreme Court ruling (*City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*), the justices ruled that cities have the legal authority to more easily clear or ban homeless encampments. In California, RVs are intended for temporary recreational or emergency occupancy, not for long-term living or habitation on private property, outside of designated areas like RV parks, campgrounds, or mobile home parks.

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.”

Homelessness in California. Since 2016, homelessness in the United States, and particularly in California, has been growing at an increasing rate. Homelessness has been correlated with a number of negative effects, including high rates of chronic disease and acute illness, a broad range of mental health and substance use

issues, greater exposure to violence, malnutrition, extreme weather, and criminal charges. The health, personal, and economic challenges that chronically homeless individuals and families face and the lack of effective, coordinated services to address these problems often lead to a cycle of housing instability and health deterioration. Persistent homelessness impedes access to needed health and employment services. Additionally, the conditions of homelessness often make it more difficult to exit homelessness, by creating barriers to the resources necessary to obtain income through training, education, and employment.

Each January, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has local community Continuums of Care conduct a Point in Time count of people experiencing homelessness. HUD defines homelessness as either “sheltered” or “unsheltered”. Sheltered homelessness is when a person is living in a temporary place, such as a temporary shelter and unsheltered homelessness is living out in the open or in places not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (i.e., the streets, vehicles, or parks). The Point in Time count is required by HUD as a condition of receiving federal funding. According to the 2023 Point in Time count, 181,399 people experienced homelessness in California, representing 28 percent of the nation’s homelessness population. Additionally, California accounted for 49 percent of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the nation.

Encampment Resolution Funding Program (ERF). The ERF program was created in response to the growing number of encampments and 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. Funds are distributed through a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development that provides funds to Continuums of Care, cities, and counties to fund actionable, person-centered local proposals that resolve the experience of unsheltered homelessness for people residing in encampments. Applicants of ERF grants may apply for funds to mitigate homeless encampments. Local jurisdictions 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.

Safe Parking Sites. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, there was significant increase in cars 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. While it is difficult to obtain data about people experiencing homelessness who live in their cars, there is data from Los Angeles that shows many in safe parking sites are families with children or over the age of 55 years old. Also “in Los Angeles, as of 2020, people living in vehicles make up almost half of the city’s unsheltered population experiencing homelessness. In Oakland, as of February 2022, an estimated 1,031 people were living in cars and vans; and another 907 were sleeping in RVs—altogether representing more than half (58%) of Oakland’s unsheltered population (up from 45% in 2019).”¹

In areas where multiple people congregate to park their RVs and live in them, cities have raised concerns about sanitation and for those that have been abandoned, they are difficult to move because a special tow truck is needed. Also, due to the size, there are safe parking sites that do not allow RVs to conserve space.

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 often include services like: sanitation (portable or indoor toilets, handwashing, showering, changing stations), Food, Wi-Fi, Child Care/Tutoring, Documentation Services, Counseling and Financial Help for Housing and/or Vehicle Issues.

An example is the Los Angeles County Pathway Home RV Interim Housing Pilot Program which provides a legal place to park and live in an RV as well as wraparound services and case management. The goal is not only to provide a safe place to live but to help people transition from living in their RVs to living in more permanent shelter.

This bill allows ERF to be used to fund the operation of safe parking sites which includes funding acquisition of safe parking sites, services, and extensions of operational hours.

¹ USICH Report on How Communities Are Responding to Vehicular Homelessness. September 2022.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2525 (Zbur, Chapter 721, Statutes of 2024) expands the number and purpose of Department of Transportation (Caltrans) leases of airspace under a freeway, or certain real property acquired for highway purposes, in Los Angeles to include a secure vehicle lot program.

AB 1413 (Ting, Chapter 265, Statutes of 2023) removes the administration of all housing homeless grant programs from Cal ICH to the Department of Housing and Community Development, and eliminates the bonus pot in HHAP and makes it available in round four and five of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.

AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2021) renamed Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to Cal-ICH, named the Secretary of CalHHS as co-chair, reconstituted the Cal-ICH membership, and required the Cal-ICH to meet at least twice yearly with an advisory committee, among other things, and as provided.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

- HCD estimates General Fund costs of \$211,000 annually until April 1, 2030, for one position to meet the quarterly reporting requirements in the bill.
- The LAO indicates the required report on the effectiveness of the ERF program will likely take 25% to 50% of an LAO analyst's time over the course of a year to complete, with additional staff time needed to review and publish the report. The LAO's budget is contained within the Legislature's fixed expenditure cap and historically it does not receive additional funding for new statutorily-required reports. For this reason, the new reporting requirement will not directly increase state spending, but instead, will reduce the LAO's capacity to serve the Legislature in other ways, such as responding to other legislative requests and completing other LAO reports.

Of note, there are multiple bills moving through the Legislative process requiring the LAO to analyze and report on various issues. Taken in totality, the requirements in these bills could, over time, diminish the time and capacity of LAO staff to not only respond to other legislative needs and priorities but also complete other core office responsibilities.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/8/25)

City of Alameda

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-1, 9/8/25

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

NOES: Lee

NO VOTE RECORDED: DeMaio, Johnson, Nguyen

Prepared by: Naima Ford Antal / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
9/8/25 19:52:59

**** **END** ****