

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 866 (Blakespear) – As Amended June 23, 2026

Policy Committee: Housing and Community Development Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each local government to include in its Annual Progress Report (APR) to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) specified information regarding the special housing needs of families and persons in need of emergency shelter.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires each local government to submit, beginning with the first APR to HCD submitted after the due date for the seventh cycle revision of the housing element, the following information:
 - a) A list of federal, state, or local funding to address the housing needs of families and persons in need of emergency shelter, including the amount of funding, if any, received from the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP).
 - b) A description of actions taken to conduct outreach to individuals who are unhoused to inform them about the resources described in item 1, above.
 - c) The current point-in-time count data provided by the continuum of care, if available.
 - d) Action taken to assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of extremely low-income households in accordance with Housing Element Law.
 - e) Action taken to coordinate with cities in the region, counties, or council of governments, including identification of the specific roles and responsibilities regarding outreach, shelter, interim, and permanent housing options, and services.
 - f) Identification of programs that seek to prevent individuals from becoming unhoused and other actions taken that seek to prevent vulnerable populations from becoming unhoused, such as current and former foster youth, veterans, persons exiting the judicial system, and persons with special housing needs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) HCD estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually for additional staffing to collect, review, and store reported data on the special housing needs of families and persons in need of emergency shelter, provide technical assistance (TA) to local agencies and other stakeholders, update the APR form and related TA materials, develop

enhancements to the HCD Connect database and existing related reports, and respond to new report requests.

HCD notes there are multiple bills moving through the Legislature that impact the APR. If several of these bills passed and were signed, HCD may need additional workload resources to absorb new workload created by all the APR-related bills, including this one.

- 2) Local costs of an unknown, but potentially significant amount to each city and county to include additional data and information regarding unhoused populations in its APR to HCD. Local jurisdictions note the APR submission process has grown quite complex, requiring additional staff time as multiple data points have been recently added to the report. However, local costs related to housing element updates are generally not state-reimbursable because cities and counties have the authority to charge and adjust planning and permitting fees to cover administrative costs associated with new planning mandates.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California continues to face a homelessness crisis, with more than 123,000 Californians living unsheltered on any given night. Addressing homelessness requires coordination across cities, counties, and regional partners, yet information about local funding, outreach, housing efforts, and regional collaboration is not consistently reported statewide. [This bill] addresses this gap by requiring cities and counties to include additional homelessness information in their existing APRs submitted to HCD. Rather than creating a new reporting process, the bill builds on the existing APR by adding targeted information on local homelessness funding, outreach, regional coordination, and prevention efforts.

- 2) **Background.** The Planning and Zoning Law requires each city and each county to adopt a comprehensive general plan for land use development of the city or county that includes, among other mandatory elements, a housing element. The housing element must include an inventory of land suitable for residential development, which is used to identify sites that can be developed for housing within the planning period that is sufficient to meet the regional housing needs for all income levels. Existing law requires the housing element to include an analysis of any special needs housing, including families and persons in need of emergency shelter, and the identification of zoning designations that allow residential uses, including mixed uses, where emergency shelters are allowed as a permitted use. Housing elements must be updated every eight years in urban areas, and every five years in more rural areas

Existing law requires the planning agency of a city or county to provide by April 1 of each year an APR to HCD that includes, among other specified information, the agency's progress in meeting its share of regional housing needs and the number of housing units approved and disapproved in the prior year.

This bill, beginning with the 7th housing element cycle, requires each city or county to add additional elements to its APR, including information about emergency shelter needs, homelessness-related funding, and outreach activities to people who are unhoused.

Recent amendments substantially changed the bill and removed the opposition of the League of California Cities and several individual cities. There is no support relevant to the current version of the bill.

Analysis Prepared by: Jennifer Swenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081