



POLICY PROPOSAL SUMMARIES TO

ACT ON HOMELESSNESS

ASSEMBLY AND SENATE REPUBLICANS



ACCOUNTABILITY

GOVERNOR ANNUAL REPORT TO LEGISLATURE (WILK – SB 1353)

- This proposal requires the governor to report annually to the Legislature and post to a publicly available dashboard on the internet all information and efforts the state and its local governments have undertaken to reduce homelessness in California, including federal funding for state and local programs.
- This proposal also requires local governments to report to the state annually all expenditures on homelessness programs and efforts, such as street clean up, law enforcement, shelters, and medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment.

REQUIRE AN AUDIT OF HOMELESSNESS SPENDING AND OUTCOMES (KILEY)

- Request that the State Auditor review the outcomes of state expenditures on homelessness and track how effectively programs are addressing the problem.
- Enhance trust with the public that state taxpayer funds for homelessness are being used efficiently because the homeless problem is growing under Democrat governance and does a disservice to the homeless population, business, and the taxpaying public.

HOUSING & SHELTER

COMPREHENSIVE CEQA EXEMPTIONS FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SHELTERS (CHOI – AB 2485)

- This proposal would exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects for emergency shelters and supportive housing.

LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP (VALLADARES – AB 2591)

- Protects places of worship that provide temporary shelter and other services to the homeless from the threat of expensive lawsuits in order to help them to help those in need.
- Expands shelter opportunities for the homeless and reduces the burden on government.

USE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION FUNDS TO CLEAN UP HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT (MELENDEZ – SB 1201)

- This proposal would authorize local governments to use Clean California, and other highway beautification program dollars, for homeless camp clean-up efforts on and around highway right-of way to help address health and safety issues relating to those encampments.

END BARRIERS TO SHELTER FIRST PROJECTS (BATES – SB 1284)

- Proposes the state can encourage local efforts through the development and implementation of a grant program that rewards local governments that increase temporary shelter options.





MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

REFORM LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT (LPS) PILOT PROGRAM (JONES – SB 1303)

- Reduce barriers to placing individuals incapable of caring for themselves into an LPS conservatorship or similar program.
- Reforming LPS will help get persons experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD) the help they need, including treatment and stable shelter.
- This will have the collateral benefit of reducing the number of people living on the street.

REFORM LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT (LPS) GUARDIANSHIP (GALLAGHER – AB 2020)

- Reduce barriers to placing individuals incapable of caring for themselves into an LPS conservatorship or similar program.
- Reforming LPS will help get persons experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD) the help they need, including treatment and stable shelter.
- This will have the collateral benefit of reducing the number of people living on the street.

AMEND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ALLOWING DIRECT SERVICES (BATES – SB 1283)

- The MHSA should be rewritten, and submitted to the voters, to allow for more flexibility and accountability in the use of the funds towards getting mentally ill homeless individuals the treatment care they need.

WRAP-AROUND SERVICE – HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAMS (JONES – SB 1006)

- Grant funds to local law enforcement agencies to voluntarily establish and operate homeless outreach teams (also known as “wrap-around service” teams).
- These teams would include a mental health professional, a medical services professional, a representative of the county welfare department, and a law enforcement officer. Volunteers from appropriate non-profits or graduate students in suitable fields of study would also be allowed to join these teams.
- The teams will be expected to immediately assess the needs of the homeless individuals on the street, and determine the best option for their housing and/or medical treatment.

USE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR ADDICTION PROGRAMS TO HELP HOMELESS (BATES – SB 1282)

- California’s state and local governments will be awarded nearly \$2 billion as the result of an opioids settlement with the country’s major pharmaceutical distributors. The money is earmarked for addiction treatment and prevention.
- The state should require that a significant portion of the \$2 billion in funding be used on specific solutions to help prevent and address addictions among the homeless.

5150 HOLDS: STATEWIDE CRITERIA & WAIT TIME STANDARDS (LACKEY – AB 2853)

- Using the findings of a pending State Auditor report, develop statewide uniform standards for 5150 involuntary holds, and limit how long an individual subject to a 5150 hold can be required to wait before being evaluated and treated.
- This proposal would rework the current system, which gives counties virtually unbridled authority to construe provisions of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act pertaining to 5150 holds however they choose, to instead incorporate best practices and ensure statewide uniformity of criteria and wait times, regardless of the county in which a patient is held.





PREVENTION FOR AT-RISK POPULATIONS

COLLABORATIVE COURTS AND REENTRY FOR THE HOMELESS (OCHOA BOGH – SB 1427)

- This proposal would provide grant funding for homeless courts, funds for expanded treatment options for criminal defendants in mental health court, and reentry planning for jail inmates at risk of becoming homeless upon release.
- Expansion of mental health and homeless courts, coupled with reentry planning for jail inmates at risk of becoming homeless upon release, can promote rehabilitation and housing stability and give law enforcement and judges additional tools to reduce crime committed by the homeless.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION, OUTREACH, AND SUPPORT (NGUYEN – AB 2569)

- Proposal would consolidate all state funding for homelessness services and prevention under one new Department in order to streamline the flow of funding, eliminate duplicative and contradictory regulations, and improve outcomes for the homeless.
- Would create a simplified funding stream for providers in order to more easily provide services to the homeless individuals who need them.

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR HOMELESS & FOSTER YOUTH (GROVE – SB 1484)

- Creates a “pathway to employment” by providing a tax credit incentive for employers to hire at-risk youth, giving them a greater opportunity to receive job training and skills necessary to remain in the workforce.
- Helps keep vulnerable youth populations from entering the criminal justice system, allows them to escape the cycle of poverty and homelessness, enables them to be productive members of our communities, and provides businesses and the state with a well-trained workforce.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

MAKE MAJOR PERMANENT INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH BED CAPACITY (OCHOA BOGH – SB 1298)

- Budget proposal to address that many homeless persons have untreated mental illnesses or substance addictions. California needs enough mental health treatment beds to properly care for these persons if the state is to make a serious effort at improving homelessness.
- California needs to make a major permanent investment in the physical infrastructure needed to treat the seriously mentally ill.

MAKE MAJOR PERMANENT INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE (VOEPEL – BUDGET LETTER)

- Budget proposal to address that many homeless persons have untreated mental illnesses or substance addictions. California needs enough workforce to properly care for these persons if the state is to make a serious effort at improving homelessness.
- California needs to make major permanent investments to expand the behavioral health workforce.

