

Date of Hearing: July 3, 2019

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

David Chiu, Chair

SB 687 (Rubio) – As Amended May 17, 2019

**SENATE VOTE:** 35-2

**SUBJECT:** Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

**SUMMARY:** Adds three new members to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (Council). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes a series of legislative findings regarding homelessness in California.
- 2) Requires the Governor to appoint up to 20 members of the Council, as provided, and requires the three additional appointments be as follows:
  - a) A formerly homeless college student who lives in California;
  - b) A formerly homeless veteran who lives in California; and,
  - c) A formerly homeless parent who lives in California.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the HCFC to be chaired by the Secretary of Business, Consumer Services, and Housing made up of the following members or their representatives:
  - a) A representative from the Department of Transportation;
  - b) A representative from the Department of Housing and Community Development;
  - c) A representative of the State Department of Social Services;
  - d) A representative of the California Housing Finance Agency;
  - e) A representative of the State Department of Health Care Services;
  - f) A representative of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
  - g) A representative of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation;
  - h) A representative from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the Treasurer's office;
  - i) A representative of the Victim Services Program within the Division of Grants Management within the Office of Emergency Services;
  - j) A formerly homeless person who lives in California;
  - k) A formerly homeless youth who lives in California;

- l) Two representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program;
  - m) State advocates or other members of the public or state agencies, at the Governor's discretion; and
  - n) An appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly
- 2) Sets the following goals for the HCFC:
- a) To identify mainstream resources, benefits, and services that can be accessed to prevent and end homelessness in California;
  - b) To create partnerships among state and federal agencies and departments, local government agencies, and nonprofit entities working to end homelessness, homeless services providers, and the private sector, for the purpose of arriving at specific strategies to end homelessness;
  - c) To promote systems integration to increase efficiency and effectiveness while focusing on designing systems to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age;
  - d) To coordinate existing funding and applications for competitive funding, without restructuring or changing any existing allocations or allocation formulas;
  - e) To make policy and procedural recommendations to legislators and other governmental entities;
  - f) To identify and seek funding opportunities for state entities that have programs to end homelessness and to facilitate and coordinate those state entities' efforts to obtain that funding;
  - g) To broker agreements between state agencies and departments and between state agencies and departments and local jurisdictions to align and coordinate resources, reduce administrative burdens of accessing existing resources, and foster common applications for services, operating, and capital funding;
  - h) To serve as a statewide facilitator, coordinator, and policy development resource on ending homelessness in California;
  - i) To report to the Governor, federal Cabinet members, and the Legislature on homelessness and work to reduce homelessness; and
  - j) To ensure accountability and results in meeting the strategies and goals of the council.
- 3) Requires, after July 1, 2017, agencies and departments that implement funds, or administer a program that provides housing or housing-based services to people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness, with the exception of federally funded programs not consistent with housing first or programs that fund emergency shelters, to work with the state HCFC to adopt guidelines and regulations to incorporate core components of Housing First.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:**

*Purpose of this bill:* According to the author, “SB 687 will increase the effectiveness, diversity, and equity of homelessness policies by including people with lived experiences of homelessness in the state’s efforts to address California’s homelessness crisis.” This bill will increase the perspective of those with lived experience on the Council by “requiring the Governor to appoint a formerly homeless college student, a formerly homeless veteran, and a formerly homeless parent to the Council. Each of these appointees will bring a unique perspective to help address California’s homelessness crisis,” per the author.

*Background:* California is facing a homelessness and affordable housing crisis. In 2018, on a single night in January, 129,972 people experienced homelessness in California. California has twenty-four percent of the people in the nation experiencing homelessness. Nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country were in California. Although the number of people experiencing homelessness decreased slightly since 2017, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness has risen over five percent since 2010.

The homeless crisis is driven by the lack of affordable rental housing for lower income people. In the current market, 2.2 million extremely low-income and very low-income renter households are competing for 664,000 affordable rental units. Of the six million renter households in the state, 1.7 million are paying more than 50% of their income toward rent. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that the state needs an additional 1.5 million housing units affordable to very-low income Californians.

*HCFC:* In 2016, SB 1380 (Mitchell), Chapter 847, created the HCFC to coordinate the state's response to homelessness. SB 1380 required all state agencies or departments that operate programs that provide housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to adopt guidelines and regulations to include Housing First policies. In 2017, SB 918 (Wiener), Chapter 841 expanded the role of the HCFC to add a focus on homeless youth by requiring the HCFC to set and measure progress towards goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth in California. The HCFC meets every quarter.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

American Family Housing  
Azusa Pacific University  
Hope Center for College, Community and Justice  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
The People Concern  
California State Association of Counties (support if amended)

**Opposition**

None on file

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