

**RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION** establishing the City's position relative to expanding the definition of gravely disabled to include medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Resolution (Buscaino – Englander – Huizar – Ryu – Harris-Dawson – Wesson), **SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:**

ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION to include in the City's 2017-18 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT for legislation that would expand the definition of gravely disabled (California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5000 et seq.,) to include medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death while maintaining safeguards to protect an individual's rights.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA). The City Administrative Officer has not completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

### SUMMARY

In a report to the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee dated February 6, 2018, the CLA discusses Resolution (Buscaino – Englander – Huizar – Ryu – Harris-Dawson – Wesson) relative to expanding the definition of gravely disabled to include medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death. Resolution states that at least 30 percent of homeless individuals in the City of Los Angeles suffer from some form of mental illness. Some are in such dire need of health and/or mental health care that their lives are in jeopardy. The current definition of gravely disabled, as defined by the State, is a condition in which a person as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, or shelter. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proposed this definition be amended to add . . . or medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death.

Resolution recommends that Council support legislation to incorporate the County's proposed amendment. The CLA concurs. According to the CLA, the proposed amendment was recommended by the County's Department of Mental Health and is consistent with statutes with 37 other states. According to the County, while this recommended amendment to State law will not address all of the problems local jurisdictions face, it is a critical component which will allow for the humane treatment of those who are suffering from a mental illness and at risk of substantial physical harm or death.

At its special meeting held February 7, 2018, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered this matter. During the public comment period, a member of the community stated that some religions oppose Western medicine. New legislation should be mindful of an individual's religious right to reject medical treatment. Committee recommended that Council adopt the accompanying Resolution, as recommended by the CLA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WESSON:	YES
HUIZAR:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

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**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**