

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 16, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *ST*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.: 18-0002-S31
Assignment No.: 18-03-0270

SUBJECT: AB 3171 (Ting) Homeless Persons Services Block Grant

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 3171 (Ting) Homeless Persons Services Block Grant, which would create a matching grant program for Cities throughout the State to fund homeless services and housing.

SUMMARY

The attached Resolution (Harris-Dawson - Bonin) was introduced on March 20, 2018 and states that for three consecutive years the homeless population has grown throughout the State of California to over 134,000 individuals, making this one of the State's top public policy issues. This growth has continued despite the issue being featured prominently in the media and receiving focused attention from government officials at every level and the general public, resulting in significant local financial investments in Los Angeles through the passage of the Proposition HHH housing bond and the Measure H services Sales Tax. Funding cuts for affordable and homeless housing by the Federal and State governments have further exacerbated the rise in homelessness.

Assemblymember Phil Ting introduced Assembly Bill 3171 which would create a matching grant program for Cities throughout the State to fund homeless services and housing. The bill would create a matching grant program for cities throughout the State to fund homeless interventions such as shelter, diversion, rapid re-housing, rental assistance, emergency shelter, navigation centers, bridge housing, and permanent supportive housing.

The Resolution recommends that the City support AB 3171.

BACKGROUND

On February 21, 2018, the Mayors of California's eleven largest cities (Anaheim, Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Ana) along with a bi-partisan group of State lawmakers held a press conference to advocate for State legislation to help address homelessness in California. These lawmakers called for support of AB 3171 (Ting) and urged the Legislature to dedicate funds for housing and services for homeless individuals. The bill establishes a matching grant program where the State's contribution is matched dollar for dollar by Cities who receive the funding. It is

important to note that the bill does not specify an exact amount of funds, however the Mayors are advocating that the State set aside \$1.5 billion of California's \$6.1 billion budget surplus. The cities would match these funds for a potential investment of \$3 billion statewide.

The bill states that California's homeless population has grown to over 134,000 individuals as the last two years have seen a 13 and 14 percent increase respectively. The bill advises that although local governments in partnership with the general public have committed local funds to address the growing homeless crisis, the magnitude of the homeless crisis proves that no entity can adequately address this issue alone, and that the State should take steps to become a meaningful partner. The bill would establish the Local Homelessness Solutions Program and create the Local Homelessness Solutions Account for the purpose of providing funding to cities to create innovative and immediate solutions to the problems caused by homelessness. Allowable uses of funds include the following: shelter diversion, rapid re-housing, rental assistance, emergency shelter, navigation centers, bridge housing, and permanent supportive housing. The bill would allocated an unspecified sum from the General Fund to the Local Homelessness Solutions Account and direct the State Controller to allocate the funds to cities in proportion to each city's most recent homeless population. The bill requires cities to match any funds received from the program.

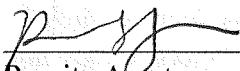
Support for AB 3171 is consistent with the City's policies to expand resources to address homelessness.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Housing and Community Investment Department

BILL STATUS

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| 02/16/18 | Read first time. To print. |
| 02/17/18 | From printer. May be heard in committee March 19. |
| 03/12/18 | Referred to Com. on H. & C.D. |


Pranita Amatya
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, for three consecutive years the homeless population has grown throughout the State of California to over 134,000 individuals, making this one of the State's top public policy issues; and

WHEREAS, this growth has continued despite the issue being featured prominently in the media and receiving focused attention from government officials at every level and the general public, resulting in significant local financial investments in Los Angeles through the passage of the Proposition HHH housing bond and the Measure H services Sales Tax;

WHEREAS, further exacerbating the rise in homelessness, funding for affordable and homeless housing has been cut by the Federal and State governments, for example, by the dissolution of the California State Redevelopment Agencies which resulted in \$1 billion less funding for affordable housing on an annual basis;

WHEREAS, the Mayors of the California's eleven largest cities, including Los Angeles, and a bi-partisan group of lawmakers have advocated for a \$1.5 billion to address homelessness;

WHEREAS, a bill, AB 3171 (Ting) Homeless Persons Services Block Grant, was introduced in the Assembly to fund homelessness services and housing; and

WHEREAS, AB 3171 recognizes that homelessness is a humanitarian crisis that requires immediate attention and this proposal would provide cities with the resources needed to develop comprehensive and compassionate solutions for the problems and issues that are different in every community; and

WHEREAS, the bill would create a matching grant program for cities throughout the State to fund homeless interventions such as shelter, diversion, rapid re-housing, rental assistance, emergency shelter, navigation centers, bridge housing, and permanent supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, the City should support AB 3171 because, despite significant local investments to address homelessness, no one private or governmental entity can solve this issue alone and substantial assistance from the State are needed to address the magnitude and complexity of this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby include in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 3171 (Ting) Homeless Persons Services Block Grant which would create a matching grant program for Cities throughout the State to fund homeless services and housing.

PRESENTED BY: _____
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: _____

MAR 20 2018
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