

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 29, 2020

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File Nos: 20-0002-S57/S58
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 20-04-0457

SUBJECT: ADDENDUM: SB 1141 (Rubio)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: That the Council adopt the attached Resolution in lieu of the Resolutions attached to the Chief Legislative Analyst's report transmitted May 27, 2020 (C.F. Nos. 20-0002-S57 and 20-0002-S58) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1141 (Rubio) as amended on May 6, 2020, which would add coercive control to the state's definition of "abuse," and further define conduct that constitutes coercive control to include, among other things, isolating a victim from friends, relatives, or other sources of support.

SUMMARY

On May 27, 2020, this Office transmitted a report to your Committee recommending that the Council Adopt two Resolutions (Rodriguez – Ryu - Blumenfield, C.F. No. 20-0002-S57 and Martinez - Price, C.F. No. 20-0002-S58) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1141 (Rubio), related to coercive control. However, those Resolutions referenced an earlier version of the bill, which has since been significantly amended in the State Senate. The current version of this legislation still addresses the same core issue as the previous legislation, and is outlined in the May 27, 2020 Report of the Chief Legislative Analyst. In order to ensure that the City's position on this legislation is clear, this Office recommends that the Council adopt the attached revised Resolution in Support of SB 1141, which reflects the bill as amended, in lieu of the Resolutions attached to the May 27, 2020 report.



Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:jwd

Attachments: Revised 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, while physical domestic abuse is a crime and the state has taken proactive steps to combat it, the law is weak when it comes to some non-physical forms of abuse, such as coercive control; and

WHEREAS, coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten victims; and

WHEREAS, abusers use coercive control to make their victims dependent by isolating them from outside support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behavior; and

WHEREAS, coercive control creates invisible chains and a sense of fear that pervades all elements of a victim's life, and deprives them of their personal liberty; and

WHEREAS, as society's understanding of domestic abuse grows to include things like coercive control, current laws must be updated to reflect this; and

WHEREAS, SB 1141 (Rubio) would address this issue by including coercive control in the State's definition of abuse, as outlined in the Domestic Violence Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, this bill would also, for purposes of determining child custody, provide that coercive control is evidence of perpetration of domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019 - 2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1141 (Rubio) as amended on May 6, 2020, which would add "coercive control" to the definition of "abuse" included in the State's Domestic Violence Protection Act, and define conduct that constitutes coercive control to include, among other things, isolating a victim from friends, relatives, or other sources of support.