

## TRANSMITTAL

To: **THE COUNCIL**

Date: **06/18/21**

From: **THE MAYOR**

**TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric Garcetti', is written over the printed name.

(Ana Guerrero) for

**ERIC GARCETTI**  
Mayor

**BOARD OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS**

LARRY GROSS  
PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA  
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

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# City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

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**BRENDA F. BARNETTE**  
GENERAL MANAGER

**TAMMY WATSON**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Administration

**ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ**  
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Lifesaving

**DR. JEREMY PRUPAS**  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Ms. Heleen Ramirez, Office of the Mayor

**RE: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL NO. 344 (HERTZBERG) – PET  
ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Recommendation for Council Action, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

SUPPORT Senate Bill No. 344 (Hertzberg) – Pet Assistance and Support Program for People Experiencing Homelessness.

At its meeting on April 13, 2021, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved a recommendation of support for Senate Bill No. 344 (Hertzberg). Additional information concerning the Board's recommendation can be found in the attached adopted board report.

If you have any questions with regards to the recommendation, please contact Francine Acuña, Executive Administrative Assistant at (213) 482-9597 or via e-mail at [francine.acuna@lacity.org](mailto:francine.acuna@lacity.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda F. Barnette  
General Manager

Attachment: April 13, 2021 Adopted Board Report – Senate Bill No. 344 (Hertzberg)

cc: Soozy Rios Bellenot, City Administrative Officer

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## Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2021

**PREPARED BY:** Brenda Barnette

**REPORT DATE:** April 7, 2021

**TITLE:** General Manager

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL NO. 344 (HERTZBERG) – PET ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

### BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **SUPPORT** State Senate Bill No. 344 (Hertzberg) – Develop and Administer a Program to Award Grants to Qualified Homeless Shelters, as described, for the Provision of Shelter, Food, and Basic Veterinary Services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness; and
2. **AUTHORIZE** staff to transmit this recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for consideration of adoption in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor.

### BACKGROUND:

In February 2021, State Senator Hertzberg introduced Senate Bill 344 (SB 344) which would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and administer a program to award grants to qualified homeless shelters, as described, for the provision of shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness. The bill would authorize the department to use up to 5% of the funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act for those purposes for its costs in administering the program.

### SUMMARY:

The Department recognizes the importance of animal companionship for people regardless of their economic status and has taken strides in decreasing barriers which may hinder animal ownership, and has sought to find ways to provide services to people who may be experiencing homelessness. The Department has programs such as the Pet Food Pantry and the Pet Retention Plan to assist

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SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL NO. 344 (HERTZBERG) – PET ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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pet owners in need. Additionally, the Department partners with many non-profit organizations to provide services such as free or low cost spay and neuter services for animals whose owners are homeless. SB 344 would be an added resource for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. These services are beneficial for not only the animals, but their owners who would not be required to abandon their pets in exchange for shelter and assistance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The support of SB 344 does not impact the General Fund.

Approved:

*Brenda F. Barnette*

*Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager*

Attachment: SB 344

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**BOARD ACTION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passed	Disapproved	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passed with noted modifications	Continued	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	New Date	<input type="checkbox"/>

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 22, 2021

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 344**

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**Introduced by Senator Hertzberg**

*(Coauthors: Senators Caballero and Wiener)*

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gabriel, Mullin, and Quirk-Silva)*

February 9, 2021

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An act to add ~~Section 50491 to~~ *Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 50535) to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code*, relating to homeless shelters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 344, as amended, Hertzberg. ~~California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program: grants: homeless shelters: Homeless shelters grants: pets and veterinary services.~~

Existing law establishes the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program, under the administration of the Department of Housing and Community Development and requires the department to, among other things, provide rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services to ensure housing affordability to people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

This bill would require the department to develop and administer a program to award grants to qualified homeless shelters, as described, for the provision of shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness. *The bill would authorize the department to use up to 5% of the funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act for those purposes for its costs in administering the program.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) California is experiencing increased homelessness.

4 (b) According to Pets of the Homeless, of the 3,500,000  
5 Americans who are homeless, 5 to 10 percent have dogs or cats.

6 (c) Many shelters, motels, and other assisted housing programs  
7 do not permit animals on their property, pushing potential recipients  
8 to live in cars, recreational vehicles (RVs), and tent camps.

9 (d) Being asked to abandon a pet is a major barrier to engaging  
10 homeless persons to use services and is emotionally draining to  
11 an already vulnerable population.

12 (e) Pets provide warmth, security, and companionship to many  
13 who sleep on the streets. Pets also provide a type of normalcy, as  
14 providing food and water for their pets helps some homeless  
15 persons connect with reality.

16 (f) After surrendering a pet, owners reunite with their dogs only  
17 15 percent of the time, while 60 percent or more of animals are  
18 left in the animal shelter system and most will die.

19 (g) By providing services for pets whose owners are without a  
20 home, both ends of the leash would be getting needed assistance.  
21 More homeless people in need would be inclined to obtain medical  
22 and living assistance, and the conditions for their pets would be  
23 improved.

24 ~~SEC. 2. Section 50491 is added to the Health and Safety Code,~~  
25 ~~to read:~~

26 ~~50491. (a) The department shall develop and administer a~~  
27 ~~program to award grants to qualified homeless shelters for the~~  
28 ~~provision of shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets~~  
29 ~~owned by people experiencing homelessness.~~

30 ~~(b) In selecting recipients for grants, the department shall~~  
31 ~~consider whether a qualified homeless shelter was developed using~~  
32 ~~a streamlined approval process.~~

33 ~~(c)~~  
34 ~~For purposes of this section, a “qualified homeless shelter”~~  
35 ~~means a homeless shelter that meets all of the following conditions:~~

36 ~~(1) It has rules of conduct and responsibility regarding pets and~~  
37 ~~their owners.~~

1 ~~(2) It provides crates or kenneling either near bunks or in a~~  
2 ~~separate area.~~

3 ~~(3) It provides food for both people experiencing homelessness~~  
4 ~~and their pets.~~

5 ~~(4) It offers the services of a veterinarian, including spay and~~  
6 ~~neutering services.~~

7 *SEC. 2. Chapter 3.6 (commencing with Section 50535) is added*  
8 *to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:*

9

10 *CHAPTER 3.6. HOMELESS SHELTERS: PETS AND VETERINARY*  
11 *SERVICES*

12

13 *50535. (a) The department shall develop and administer a*  
14 *program to award grants to qualified homeless shelters for the*  
15 *provision of shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets*  
16 *owned by people experiencing homelessness.*

17 *(b) For purposes of this section, a “qualified homeless shelter”*  
18 *means a homeless shelter that meets or commits to meeting all of*  
19 *the following conditions:*

20 *(1) It has rules of conduct and responsibility regarding pets and*  
21 *their owners.*

22 *(2) It provides crates or kenneling either near bunks or in a*  
23 *separate area.*

24 *(3) It provides food for both people experiencing homelessness*  
25 *and their pets.*

26 *(4) It offers the services of a veterinarian, including spay and*  
27 *neutering services.*

28 *(c) The department may use up to 5 percent of the funds*  
29 *appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the purposes of this*  
30 *section for its costs in administering the program authorized by*  
31 *this section.*

32 *(d) The department may implement the program through the*  
33 *issuance of forms, guidelines, and one or more notices of funding*  
34 *availability, as the department deems necessary, to exercise the*  
35 *powers and perform the duties conferred on it by this chapter. Any*  
36 *forms, guidelines, and notices of funding availability adopted*  
37 *pursuant to this section are hereby exempted from the rulemaking*  
38 *provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5*

1 *(commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title*  
2 *2 of the Government Code).*

O