

### **AB 3171 (TING): HOMELESS PERSONS SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Infrastructure, Housing & Land Use Committee voted to SUPPORT AB 3171 on March 20, 2018. The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT AB 3171 on April 10, 2018

**RATIONALE:** The Committee's position clarifies that while they are supportive of the one-time allotment of funds during the budgetary surplus, they caution against long-term dependency on that money, and do not wish to see this become an on-going appropriation.

**STATUS:** AB 3171 was introduced by Assemblymember Phil Ting on February 16, 2018. It was referred to the Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development and is awaiting hearing.

#### **SUMMARY**

AB 3171 creates the Local Homeless Solutions Program, and the Local Homelessness Solutions Account to give cities state resources via a matching grant to address homelessness (which includes shelter diversion, rapid re-housing, rental assistance, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and navigation systems, among other things). The bill seeks up to \$1.5 billion as a one-time appropriation (from existing surplus monies), to be divided up for cities that are currently working to address the unprecedented challenge of homelessness.

#### **INDUSTRIES IMPACTED**

Industries specifically dealing with the homeless population as service providers will be directly impacted. Additionally, it is likely that the building industry would be impacted as additional funds are available for a variety of housing structures, both temporary and permanent, to be built.

#### **SUPPORTERS**

- Big 11 Mayors

#### **OPPONENTS**

None reported.

#### **ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR**

As one part of what must be a larger, more comprehensive response to the homelessness issue across the state, this bill would provide critical funds to local governments that are allocating scarce resources to homelessness issues, and the care of homeless individuals. These cities should not be left to solve homelessness on their own, and without a larger policy strategy for homelessness from the state, matching grants to jurisdictions already implementing solutions should be encouraged and enabled to flourish.

#### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**

This represents a one-time fix for a systemic problem that requires a broader solution.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

California's homeless population increased almost 14 percent in 2017, with an overall homeless population estimated to be hovering over 130,000 individuals. Regardless of targeted solutions and increased awareness, the challenge of housing this population presents itself across myriad points ranging from chronic health conditions, public health crises such as the recent Hepatitis emergency, and public safety concerns. Throughout the state, the larger cities, including San Diego have proactively implemented solutions and other measures to address the immediate and acute needs of the homeless crisis.

In San Diego, such measures include: temporary bridge shelters, homeless navigation center establishment and the recent approval of an additional homeless storage unit. All told, the city of San Diego will invest tens millions of dollars over the course of the next few years establishing immediate to long-term solutions to house the growing unsheltered population. With ongoing confusion between cities and counties regarding the appropriate share of the costs, the state must be an active partner in providing resources to encourage more solutions.

By requiring this to be a matching block grant, only cities that have invested local dollars into finding solutions will be eligible, and it is anticipated that other eligibility requirements will be added as the bill takes shape.