

**Introduced by Senator Cox**

February 14, 2009

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An act to amend Section 56001 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 163, as introduced, Cox. Local government: reorganization.

Existing law, for purposes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, makes various legislative findings and declarations regarding the use of local government reorganization.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 56001 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 56001. The Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy  
4 of the state to encourage orderly growth and development which  
5 are essential to the social, fiscal, and economic well-being of the  
6 state. The Legislature recognizes that the logical formation and  
7 determination of local agency boundaries is an important factor  
8 in promoting orderly development and in balancing that  
9 development with sometimes competing state interests of  
10 discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime  
11 agricultural lands, and efficiently extending government services.

1 The Legislature also recognizes that providing housing for persons  
2 and families of all incomes is an important factor in promoting  
3 orderly development. Therefore, the Legislature ~~further~~ *also* finds  
4 and declares that this policy should be effected by the logical  
5 formation and modification of the boundaries of local agencies,  
6 with a preference granted to accommodating additional growth  
7 within, or through the expansion of, the boundaries of those local  
8 agencies which can best accommodate and provide necessary  
9 governmental services and housing for persons and families of all  
10 incomes in the most efficient manner feasible.

11 The Legislature recognizes that urban population densities and  
12 intensive residential, commercial, and industrial development  
13 necessitate a broad spectrum and high level of community services  
14 and controls. The Legislature also recognizes that when areas  
15 become urbanized to the extent that they need the full range of  
16 community services, priorities are required to be established  
17 regarding the type and levels of services that the residents of an  
18 urban community need and desire; that community service  
19 priorities be established by weighing the total community service  
20 needs against the total financial resources available for securing  
21 community services; and that those community service priorities  
22 are required to reflect local circumstances, conditions, and limited  
23 financial resources. The Legislature finds and declares that a single  
24 multipurpose governmental agency is accountable for community  
25 service needs and financial resources and, therefore, may be the  
26 best mechanism for establishing community service priorities  
27 especially in urban areas. Nonetheless, the Legislature recognizes  
28 the critical role of many limited purpose agencies, especially in  
29 rural communities. The Legislature also finds that, whether  
30 governmental services are proposed to be provided by a  
31 single-purpose agency, several agencies, or a multipurpose agency,  
32 responsibility should be given to the agency or agencies that can  
33 best provide government services.

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