

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2015  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 955**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis**  
*(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Alejo)*

February 26, 2015

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An act to add Section 8687.77 to the Government Code, relating to disaster assistance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 955, as amended, Mathis. Disaster assistance: droughts: temporary assistance.

Existing law, the California Disaster Assistance Act, authorizes the Office of Emergency Services to establish a model process that would be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor and would provide that the process may consider, among other things, the role of the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, including, but not limited to, the provision of potable water.

This bill would additionally authorize the office ~~to establish a model process to~~ *to, either independently, or working through local agencies, nonprofit organizations, or other state entities*, address the effects of a drought by providing temporary water supplies for drinking and sanitation to property owners. The bill would ~~require the process to consider~~ *authorize the office, either independently, or working through local agencies, nonprofit organizations, or other state entities to*, among other things, ~~the role of the office in providing~~ *provide* temporary water

supplies for drinking and sanitation to property owners, and to ~~include provisions that would allow for temporary assistance to~~ *be provided to* property owners whose income ~~exceeds~~ *exceeds* a ~~threshold established by the office, as specified:~~ *specified threshold.*

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. Section 8687.77 is added to the Government  
2 Code, to read:

3 8687.77. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following  
4 shall apply:

5 (1) "Property owner" means the owner of a home, rental  
6 housing, multifamily housing, or small business.

7 (2) "Small business" means a business with 25 or ~~few~~ *fewer*  
8 employees.

9 (3) "Water supplies" means the purchase and installation of  
10 water storage tanks and associated plumbing and the provision of  
11 water deliveries for drinking and sanitation.

12 (b) In addition to any model process established by the Office  
13 of Emergency Services to assist a community pursuant to Section  
14 8687.7, the office ~~may also establish a model process to~~ *may, either*  
15 *independently or working through local agencies, nonprofit*  
16 *organizations, or other state entities,* address the effects of a  
17 drought by providing temporary water supplies for drinking and  
18 sanitation to property owners consistent with this section.

19 (c) ~~The model process shall consist~~ *office may, either*  
20 *independently or working through local agencies, nonprofit*  
21 *organizations, or other state entities, do any of the following:*

22 (1) ~~The role of the office in providing~~ *Provide* temporary water  
23 supplies for drinking and sanitation to property owners, ~~including~~  
24 ~~any collaboration efforts with a local agency or non-profit~~  
25 ~~organization:~~ *owners.*

26 (2) ~~The establishment of~~ *Establish* income thresholds above  
27 which ~~the office determines~~ a property owner ~~has~~ *is determined*  
28 *to have* adequate resources to remedy the water quality or water  
29 supply problem without temporary assistance from the state.

30 (3) For instances where the property owner's income exceeds  
31 the threshold established in paragraph (2):

1 (A) ~~A provision that allows for~~ Allow temporary assistance to  
2 be provided if the property owner agrees to reimburse the full cost  
3 of that temporary assistance.

4 (B) For instances where the property owner demonstrates that  
5 the owner cannot afford to reimburse the full cost of that temporary  
6 assistance, ~~a provision that allows the office to~~ provide a loan to  
7 the property owner to cover those temporary assistance costs with  
8 an interest rate that does not exceed 1 percent. The loans shall be  
9 made from any moneys appropriated by the Legislature ~~to the~~  
10 ~~office.~~ *for these purposes.*

11 (C) ~~The~~ *Establish* a method of reimbursement or repayment of  
12 any loan, including the period for reimbursement or repayment,  
13 consistent with the property owner's ability to repay.

14 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as compelling a  
15 property owner to accept any assistance offered ~~by a model process~~  
16 ~~established~~ pursuant to this section.

17 (e) The recipient of any assistance received pursuant ~~to a model~~  
18 ~~process established pursuant~~ to this section shall agree to hold the  
19 state harmless from any damages due to that assistance.

20 (f) The office may adopt as an emergency regulation, in  
21 accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340)  
22 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, any  
23 regulation it determines is necessary to carry out the purposes of  
24 this section.