

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2256

Introduced by Assembly Member Maienschein

February 18, 2016

An act to add Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8260) to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2256, as introduced, Maienschein. Homelessness: report.

Existing law provides for various programs to provide services for people who are homeless within the California Health and Human Services Agency.

This bill would require a homeless services provider to submit a report, as provided, to the California Health and Human Services Agency that contains specified data regarding homeless children or youth and homeless persons. The bill would define, among other things, a "homeless services provider" to mean a governmental or nonprofit agency that receives federal, state, or county or municipal funding to provide services to homeless children or youth and homeless persons or that is otherwise sanctioned to provide those services by a local homeless continuum of care organization. The bill would require the data reported to the California Health and Human Services Agency to be published on the California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal.

By imposing new duties upon local governments, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

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

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

3 (a) The purpose of asking homeless services providers to submit
4 the information required by this act is to develop a statewide
5 database of information regarding homeless children or youth and
6 homeless persons and the public services being used.

7 (b) The data will enable state and local governments to develop
8 better programs to target the needs of these individuals and utilize
9 funding and other resources in the most efficient manner.

10 SEC. 2. Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8260) is added
11 to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

12
13 CHAPTER 7. HOMELESSNESS REPORT
14

15 8260. (a) On or before January 1, 2018, and on or before
16 January 1 each year thereafter, a homeless services provider shall
17 submit a report to the California Health and Human Services
18 Agency that contains all of the following data for the previous
19 calendar year regarding homeless children or youth and homeless
20 persons:

- 21 (1) The number of ambulance rides.
- 22 (2) The number of hospital stays and length of each stay.
- 23 (3) The number of emergency room visits.
- 24 (4) The number of arrests and length of each incarceration.
- 25 (5) The number of homeless children or youth and homeless
26 persons using services provided by the homeless services provider.
- 27 (6) Census data.

28 (b) The report shall be submitted in an open format that meets
29 all of the following requirements:

- 30 (1) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically
31 searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.

1 (2) Platform independent and machine readable.

2 (3) Available to the public free of charge and without any
3 restriction that would impede the reuse or distribution of the data,
4 if applicable.

5 (4) Retains the data definitions and structure present when the
6 data was compiled, if applicable.

7 (c) The data reported to the California Health and Human
8 Services Agency shall be published on the California Health and
9 Human Services Open Data Portal.

10 (d) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
11 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
12 Code.

13 (e) For purposes of this section, all of the following definitions
14 shall apply:

15 (1) “Homeless children or youth” has the same definition as
16 that term is defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
17 Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.).

18 (2) “Homeless persons” has the same definition as that term in
19 defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
20 U.S.C. Sec. 11301 et seq.).

21 (3) “Homeless services provider” means a governmental or
22 nonprofit agency that receives federal, state, or county or municipal
23 funding to provide services to homeless children or youth and
24 homeless persons or that is otherwise sanctioned to provide those
25 services by a local homeless continuum of care organization.

26 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.