

Introduced by Senator HuffFebruary 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 987.005 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans housing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 689, as introduced, Huff. Veterans: housing.

Existing law requires the California Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement housing programs that focus on veterans at risk for homelessness or experiencing temporary or chronic homelessness. Existing law requires the departments, to the extent feasible, to prioritize projects that combine housing and supportive services, including, but not limited to, job training, mental health and drug treatment, case management, care coordination, or physical rehabilitation.

This bill would instruct the departments to also prioritize projects that keep a mental health professional on staff or contract for the services of a mental health professional. This bill would include psychologists, professional clinical counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and psychiatrists as mental health professionals for its purposes.

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 987.005 of the Military and Veterans
- 2 Code is amended to read:

1 987.005. (a) The departments shall establish and implement
2 programs pursuant to the purposes of this article that focus on
3 veterans at risk for homelessness or experiencing temporary or
4 chronic homelessness. To the extent feasible, the departments shall
5 establish and implement programs that, among other things, do
6 the following:

7 (1) Leverage public (federal, state, and local), private, and
8 nonprofit program and fiscal resources.

9 (2) Prioritize projects that combine housing and supportive
10 services, including, but not limited to, job training, mental health
11 and drug treatment, case management, care coordination, or
12 physical rehabilitation.

13 (3) *Prioritize projects that keep a mental health professional*
14 *on staff or contract for the services of a mental health professional.*
15 *For the purposes of this paragraph a mental health professional*
16 *shall mean any of the following:*

17 (A) *A licensed psychologist as defined in Chapter 6.6*
18 *(commencing with Section 2900) of Division 2 of the Business and*
19 *Professions Code.*

20 (B) *A licensed professional clinical counselor as defined in*
21 *Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) of Division 2 of*
22 *the Business and Professions Code.*

23 (C) *A licensed social worker as defined in Chapter 14*
24 *(commencing with Section 4991) of Division 2 of the Business and*
25 *Professions Code.*

26 (D) *A licensed marriage and family therapist as defined in*
27 *Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980) of Division 2 of the*
28 *Business and Professions Code.*

29 (E) *A licensed physician and surgeon who is board certified in*
30 *psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.*

31 ~~(3)~~

32 (4) Promote public and private partnerships.

33 ~~(4)~~

34 (5) Foster innovative financing opportunities.

35 ~~(5)~~

36 (6) Ensure program guidelines and terms provide threshold
37 requirements or scoring criteria, or both, to advance applicants
38 with experience in combining permanent or transitional housing,
39 or both, with supportive services for veterans, or for partnering

1 with housing developers or service providers with experience
2 offering housing or services to veterans.

3 (b) The departments shall ensure at least 50 percent of funds
4 awarded for capital development under this article provide housing
5 to veteran households with extremely low incomes, as defined in
6 Section 50106 of the Health and Safety Code.

7 (1) In determining whether a potential tenant is eligible for
8 supportive, affordable, or transitional housing targeted to extremely
9 low income households under this provision, eligibility shall take
10 into consideration all of a household's income sources upon initial
11 tenancy.

12 (2) At least 60 percent of units funded targeting extremely low
13 income households shall be supportive housing.

14 (3) This section shall not deter the departments from funding
15 projects serving mixed-income populations.

16 (c) The departments may review, adopt, amend, and repeal
17 guidelines or terms, or both, to implement this article. Any
18 guidelines or terms adopted to implement this article shall not be
19 subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part
20 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

21 (d) Nothing in this article permits the departments or the board
22 to purchase, operate, or manage properties except in the event of
23 a foreclosure on a borrower or grantee.