

Senate Bill No. 255

Passed the Senate September 12, 1997

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly September 10, 1997

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this ____ day
of _____, 1997, at ____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER ____

An act to amend Section 15301 of, to add Section 15301.6 to, to repeal Section 15301.7 of, and to repeal and add Section 15301.5 of, the Government Code, relating to armories, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 255, Lee. Armories: homeless shelters.

Existing law requires the Military Department to, until March 15, 1997, make certain state armories available to specified cities and counties for use by homeless persons for emergency shelter purposes.

This bill would extend this requirement until March 15, 1999. It would delete Van Nuys, and would add Sylmar, the City of Glendale armory, and the City of Glendale to the above-described provisions. The bill would delete the armories in Calexico, Chico, Corona, El Cajon, Roseville, and San Rafael but would authorize a city or county to request use of one of the armories in those communities through the Office of Emergency Services if the city or county has exhausted all other available resources for housing homeless persons.

Existing law requires an authorized county or city electing to use an armory for these purposes to provide a report to the Department of Economic Opportunity on January 1, 1996, and on January 1, 1997, describing progress toward a long-range, permanent shelter plan for homeless persons to take effect on March 15, 1997.

This bill would repeal that provision, and would, instead, require a county government utilizing the armory shelter program to provide a report no later than June 30, 1998, to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, the Assembly Committee on Local Government, and the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees, describing the progress towards providing alternative emergency shelters in lieu of the armory shelter, and would prohibit making armories



available to the local government for the emergency shelter program after July 1, 1998, if the report is not provided by June 30, 1998.

Existing law requires any authorized county or city electing to use a state armory for these purposes to obtain a license from the Military Department in compliance with prescribed requirements.

This bill would require each county that obtains a license to establish, on or before November 1, 1997, a local shelter advisory committee with prescribed membership and responsibilities.

Existing law requires that prior to March 15, 1997, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the temporary armory shelter arrangement and the progress of participating counties and cities toward long-range future shelter plans for homeless persons shall be prepared jointly by the Military Department, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and a representative of the participating counties and cities selected by participating groups, and requires that the report be sent to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, and the Assembly Committee on Local Government, prior to March 15, 1997.

This bill would repeal this provision, and instead require the Legislative Analyst to file a report by March 1, 1998.

The bill would require its provisions to become operative only if AB 242 and AB 67 are enacted and become operative.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately, as an urgency statute.

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

SECTION 1. Section 15301 of the Government Code is amended to read:

15301. (a) The El Centro armory in Imperial County; the Culver City, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach on 7th Street, Pomona, and Sylmar armories and the West Los



Angeles armory on Federal Avenue in Los Angeles County; the Merced armory in Merced County; the Fullerton and Santa Ana armories in Orange County; the Indio and Riverside armories in Riverside County; the Escondido and Vista armories in San Diego County; the San Mateo armory in San Mateo County; the Santa Barbara and Santa Maria armories in Santa Barbara County; the Gilroy and Sunnyvale armories and the San Jose armory on Hedding Street in Santa Clara County; the Santa Cruz and Watsonville armories in Santa Cruz County; the Redding armory in Shasta County; the Petaluma and Santa Rosa armories in Sonoma County; and the Oxnard armory in Ventura County shall be made available to these counties or any city in these counties for the purpose of providing temporary shelter for homeless persons during the period from December 1 through March 15 each year, as a temporary measure until March 15, 1999, to allow adequate time for government entities in these counties to develop other suitable homeless shelter arrangements. If severe weather conditions exist between November 1 through March 31, the Military Department may extend the use of the armories to include November 1 to December 1 and March 15 to March 31.

(b) If the communities in Calexico, Chico, Corona, El Cajon, Roseville, or San Rafael require the use of the armories in those communities as emergency shelters, the county or city may request use of the armories through the Office of Emergency Services, if the county or city has exhausted all other available resources for housing homeless persons.

SEC. 2. Section 15301.5 of the Government Code is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 15301.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

15301.5. County governments utilizing the Armory Temporary Emergency Shelter Program pursuant to this chapter shall provide a report no later than June 30, 1998, to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization, the Assembly Committee



on Local Government, and the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees, describing the progress towards providing alternative emergency shelters in lieu of the Armory Temporary Emergency Shelter Program. The report shall describe recent activities, planned activities, obstacles and proposed solutions to the obstacles. If the report is not provided by June 30, 1998, armories shall not be made available to the local government for the Armory Temporary Emergency Shelter Program after July 1, 1998.

SEC. 4. Section 15301.6 is added to the Government Code, to read:

15301.6. (a) Each county that obtains a license under Section 15301.3 shall establish, on or before November 1, 1997, a local shelter advisory committee, which shall have all of the following responsibilities:

(1) To address issues related to shelter operation, including, but not limited to, sanitation and security issues.

(2) To ensure that the shelter maintains a “good neighbor policy.”

(3) To assist in finding long-term solutions for providing housing for the homeless to reduce the degree to which state armories are utilized as sites for housing homeless persons.

(b) The county shall select the advisory committee, which shall include representatives from the county and cities within the county in which armories are utilized, local government planning departments, the California National Guard, homeless service providers, local peace officers, representatives of affected community organizations, and advocates for homeless persons. Counties may utilize existing homeless task forces, including, but not limited to, a task force for purposes of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), if the membership of the task force has representatives that meet all of the requirements of this subdivision.

SEC. 5. Section 15301.7 of the Government Code is repealed.



SEC. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Legislative Analyst's office, in consultation with the Military Department, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Community Services and Development, advocates for housing for the homeless, and other parties, as necessary, analyze and recommend to the Legislature alternative approaches for providing cold weather assistance to homeless persons that could replace the existing Temporary Emergency Shelter Program by which homeless persons are housed at specified armories of the National Guard. The Legislative Analyst shall report its findings and recommendations in this matter to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the budget committees of both the Assembly and the Senate by March 1, 1998.

SEC. 7. Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this bill shall become operative only if Assembly Bill 242 and Assembly Bill 67 of the 1997-98 Regular Session are enacted, and become operative.

SEC. 8. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to provide adequate shelter for the homeless, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.



Approved _____, 1997

Governor

