

Introduced by Senator Speier

February 25, 1999

An act to add Chapter 18 (commencing with Section 50898) to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to housing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 781, as introduced, Speier. Housing subsidies: high-cost counties.

Existing law sets forth the duties of the Department of Housing and Community Development in administering various housing programs in the state.

This bill would require the department to implement a housing subsidy program to be administered by high-cost counties, as defined, at their option, pursuant to which families who are successfully meeting participation requirements under the welfare-to-work component of the CalWORKs program and whose income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level would receive subsidies for rent for up to 3 years, at specified levels. It would require a county applying to provide subsidies to provide a 10% match, and would authorize the county to develop criteria for eligibility for the program in addition to that set forth in the bill, and to designate a local agency or community-based organization to implement the program.

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. Chapter 18 (commencing with Section
2 50898) is added to Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and
3 Safety Code, to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 18. HOUSING SUBSIDIES FOR HIGH-COST
6 COUNTRIES
7

8 50898. (a) (1) The Department of Housing and
9 Community Development shall implement a housing
10 subsidy program to be administered by high-cost
11 counties, at their option.

12 (2) For purposes of this section, a “high-cost county”
13 is a county in which the United States Department of
14 Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rent
15 (FMR) for a two bedroom apartment is 50 percent or
16 higher above the statewide median for regions defined by
17 the federal department.

18 (b) The subsidy provided under this section shall be
19 applied for the benefit of families who are successfully
20 meeting participation requirements under the
21 welfare-to-work component of the CalWORKs program
22 pursuant to Article 3.2 (commencing with Section 11320)
23 of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and
24 Institutions Code, and whose income level is less than 150
25 percent of the federal poverty level.

26 (c) Individual subsidies under this section shall be
27 limited to rents totaling no more than 20 percent above
28 the 1998 United States Department of Housing and Urban
29 Development Fair Market Rent (FMR) for the region,
30 and shall be applied for no longer than a total of three
31 years, as follows:

32 (1) In the first year, 50 percent of the family’s rent shall
33 be subsidized.

34 (2) In the second year, 40 percent of the family’s rent
35 shall be subsidized.

36 (3) In the third year, 30 percent of the family’s rent
37 shall be subsidized.



1 (d) A county applying to provide subsidies through
2 this section shall provide a 10 percent match, which may
3 include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block
4 grant funds, or maintenance of effort funds under the
5 CalWORKs program, to the extent not in conflict with
6 federal law.

7 (e) A county providing subsidies through this section
8 may develop criteria for eligibility for the program in
9 addition to that set forth in this section, and may
10 designate a local agency or community-based
11 organization to implement the program.

