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SB-1361 California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: local agencies: contract for providing services for people experiencing homelessness. (2023-2024)

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Senate Bill No. 1361

CHAPTER 188

An act to amend Section 21080.10 of the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

[Approved by Governor August 19, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State August 19, 2024.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1361, Blakespear. California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: local agencies: contract for providing services for people experiencing homelessness.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA exempts from its requirements, among other things, actions taken by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Housing Finance Agency, or a local agency not acting as the lead agency to provide financial assistance or insurance for the development and construction of residential housing for persons and families of low or moderate income, as provided.

This bill would additionally exempt from CEQA's requirements actions taken by a local agency to approve a contract for providing services for people experiencing homelessness, as provided.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 21080.10 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

21080.10. This division does not apply to any of the following:

(a) An extension of time, granted pursuant to Section 65361 of the Government Code, for the preparation and adoption of one or more elements of a city or county general plan.

(b) Actions taken by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Housing Finance Agency, or a local agency not acting as the lead agency to provide financial assistance or insurance for the development and construction of

residential housing for persons and families of low or moderate income, as defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code, if the project that is the subject of the application for financial assistance or insurance will be reviewed pursuant to this division by another public agency.

(c) (1) Actions taken by a local agency to approve a contract for providing services for people experiencing homelessness.

(2) The services described in paragraph (1) may include, but are not limited to, case management, resource navigation, security services, residential services, and counseling services.