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AB-635 Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program: Attorney General. (2025-2026)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL** NO. 635

> **Introduced by Assembly Member Ahrens** (Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Krell) (Principal coauthor: Senator Umberg)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Harabedian and Kalra)

February 13, 2025

An act to amend Sections-18802 and 18804 of, and to repeal Section 18806 of, 18802, 18804, 18805, and 18806 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to housing.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 635, as amended, Ahrens. Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program: Attorney General.

Existing law, the Mobilehome Residency Law, prescribes various terms and conditions of tenancies in mobilehome parks. The law deems the substantial failure of the management of a mobilehome park, as defined, to provide and maintain physical improvements in the common facilities in good working order and condition, and the substantial violation of a mobilehome park rule, to be a public nuisance that may be remedied only by a civil action or abatement, as specified. The law authorizes a civil action for purposes of that provision to be brought by, among others, the Attorney General.

Existing law establishes within the Department of Housing and Community Development the Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program, which authorizes additional enforcement measures for violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law. Existing law requires the department to refer any alleged violations of law or regulations within the department's jurisdiction to the Division of Codes and Standards within the department, and to refer any alleged violations of law or regulations that are not within the jurisdiction of the department, as specified, to the appropriate enforcement agency.

This bill would require the department to refer up to a total of 25 alleged violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law to the office of the Attorney General in any given fiscal year that the department in good faith efforts selects as the most severe, deleterious, and materially and economically impactful alleged violations. The bill would authorize the Attorney General to arbitrate, mediate, negotiate, or pursue any and all available judicial remedies in connection with any alleged violations of the law referred by the department.

Existing law creates the Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund, as specified, and requires moneys in the fund to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of implementing the program.

This bill would require moneys in the fund to be made available to the department or to the Attorney General, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of implementing the program. The bill would require the Attorney General to use funds appropriated to it as necessary to perform duties related to enforcing the alleged violations described above.

Existing law requires the department to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature outlining, among other things, the amount of registration fees collected and the amount expended on the program.

This bill would additionally require the department to include the amount expended by the Attorney General, as specified, and the number of complaint allegations referred to the Attorney General, as specified, in the annual report.

Existing law repeals the above-described provisions relating to the Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program on January 1, 2027.

This bill would-eliminate the above-described repeal date, thereby extending the program and its provisions indefinitely. extend that repeal date to January 1, 2030.

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 18802 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

- 18802. (a) The Mobilehome Residency Law Protection Program is hereby established within the department.
- (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the department shall provide assistance in taking complaints, and helping to resolve and coordinate the resolution of those complaints, from homeowners relating to the Mobilehome Residency Law.
- (c) The department shall not arbitrate, mediate, negotiate, or provide legal advice in connection with mobilehome park rent disputes, lease or rental agreements, or disputes arising from lease or rental agreements, but may provide information on these issues to the complaining party, management, or other responsible party.
- (d) (1) (A) The department shall refer any alleged violations of law or regulations within the department's jurisdiction to the Division of Codes and Standards within the department.
  - (B) The department may refer any alleged violations of law or regulations that are not within the jurisdiction of the department, including, but not limited to, rent disputes, criminal activity, or alleged discrimination, to the appropriate enforcement agency.
  - (2) (A) The department shall refer up to a total of 25 alleged violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law in any given fiscal year to the office of the Attorney General that the department in good faith efforts selects as the most severe, deleterious, and materially and economically impactful alleged violations.
    - (B) The Attorney General shall have the authority to arbitrate, mediate, negotiate, or pursue any and all available judicial remedies in connection with any violations of the Mobilehome Residency Law.
    - (C) The Attorney General shall use funds appropriated to it pursuant to Section 18804 as necessary to perform duties related to subparagraph (B).
- (e) (1) Upon receipt of a complaint, the department shall send the complaining party a letter confirming receipt and referencing those provisions of the Mobilehome Residency Law, if applicable, that may pertain to the complaint. If the department refers the complaint to an appropriate enforcement agency, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d), the letter shall communicate that referral.
  - (2) A letter issued pursuant to this subdivision shall be in the same medium as the complaint to which the letter is in response.
- (f) In evaluating a complaint, the department may request a copy of the lease, park rules, or any other relevant written documents applicable to a complaint from management. Management shall provide the information requested pursuant to this paragraph within 15 business days from the postmark date or the electronic transmission of the request. The department shall establish a mechanism for management to provide the documents electronically. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in a noncompliance citation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each failure to comply. The department shall not provide the

documents it receives pursuant to this paragraph to any person or entity other than the nonprofit legal services provider, an appropriate enforcement agency, or the complainant.

- (g) If the department selects a complaint for referral to and evaluation by a nonprofit legal services provider pursuant to Section 18803, it shall send a notice to the complaining party and the management or mobilehome park owner.
- (h) The department may aggregate multiple complaints submitted to the program into a single investigation. Multiple complaints may be aggregated within a single mobilehome park, or within multiple mobilehome parks where there is either:
  - (1) A common mobilehome park owner or mobilehome park owner entity, or common principals, partners, shareholders, members, or legal ownership amongst the multiple mobilehome parks.
  - (2) A common third-party or off-site management entity which manages the multiple mobilehome parks.
- (i) Participation in the administrative procedures authorized by this part shall not be deemed to be grounds to authorize a delay in the prosecution of an unlawful detainer action. However, this section shall not be construed as preventing a court from exercising any power to delay based upon any other grounds.
- (j) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2020.
- (k) (1) The department may adopt regulations as necessary or appropriate to implement this section.
  - (2) Until January 1, 2027, the adoption and readoption of regulations to implement this section shall be deemed to be an emergency and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, or general welfare for purposes of Sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code, and the department is hereby exempted from the requirement that it describe facts showing the need for immediate action.
  - (3) Before submitting an emergency regulation to the office the department shall solicit and consider stakeholder comments in the design and implementation of the program in at least one 30-day public comment period. The department shall provide responses in writing to substantive written comments received during the comment period.
- SEC. 2. Section 18804 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:
- **18804.** (a) There is hereby established in the State Treasury the Mobilehome Dispute Resolution Fund. The fund shall receive all moneys derived pursuant to this part. Moneys in the fund shall be made available to the department or to the Attorney General, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of implementing this part.
- (b) (1) Beginning January 1, 2019, and each subsequent year thereafter, the department shall assess upon, and collect from, the management of a mobilehome park subject to the Mobilehome Residency Law an annual registration fee of ten dollars (\$10) for each permitted mobilehome lot within the mobilehome park. The department shall collect the registration fee at the same time as the annual operating permit fee imposed under the Mobilehome Parks Act (Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200)).
  - (2) The Legislature finds and declares that the purpose of the fee imposed by this section is to cover the costs of the department incident to the investigation of mobilehome parks for purposes of enforcing the Mobilehome Residency Law.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other law or local ordinance, rule, regulation, or initiative measure to the contrary, within 90 days from payment of the registration fee to the department, management may pass on all or a portion of the amount of the annual registration fee assessed under this section to the homeowners within the mobilehome park and may collect the amount or portion thereof from the homeowner with the rent payment and other charges due, except that management shall not aggregate or include the fee in the rent nor shall the amount exceed ten dollars (\$10) per mobilehome space annually. The annual registration fee shall appear as a separate line item in the bill and shall be accompanied by a clear written description of the purpose of the charge to homeowners, along with contact information for the department.

## SEC. 3.Section 18806 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

**SEC. 3.** Section 18805 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

- 18805. (a) The department shall include all of the following information in the annual report submitted pursuant to Section 50408:
  - (1) The amount of registration fees collected pursuant to Section 18804 and the amount expended on the program, including the amount expended by the Attorney General pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 18802.
  - (2) The total number of complaint allegations received, the total number of complaint allegations processed, and the total number of complaint allegations referred to another enforcement—agency agency, including the number of complaint allegations referred to the Attorney General pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 18802, or to a nonprofit legal services provider.

(3) The type of complaint allegations received.
(4) To the extent possible, the outcome of each complaint received by the program.
(5) Activities completed by a nonprofit legal services provider contracted with pursuant to the program.
(6) The most common complaint allegations.
(7) Recommendations for any statutory or administrative changes to the program.
(b) The department shall additionally report the information required pursuant to paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, of subdivision (a) to the task force convened pursuant to Section 18400.3.  SEC. 4. Section 18806 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:
<b>18806.</b> This part shall remain in effect only until January 1, <del>2027,</del> 2030, and as of that date is repealed.
REVISIONS:
Heading—Line 4.