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AB-654 Homelessness resource telephone system. (2025-2026)

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 654

Introduced by Assembly Member Caloza

February 13, 2025

An act to add Article 6.7 (commencing with Section 53128) to Chapter 1 of ~~Title~~ *Part* 1 of Division 2 of ~~Part~~ *Title* 5 of the Government Code, relating to homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 654, as amended, Caloza. Homelessness resource telephone system.

Existing law authorizes a local public agency, as defined, to establish a nonemergency “311” telephone system structured to provide access to only public safety agencies or structured to provide access to public safety agencies and to all other services provided by a local public agency. Existing law generally provides for services for homeless individuals, including the Homeless Emergency Aid program, which provides localities with one-time flexible block grant funds to address their immediate homelessness challenges, the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, which provides moneys for the provision of shelter to homeless persons, and authorization for a county to establish a homeless adult and family multidisciplinary personnel team with the goal of facilitating the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services within that county.

This bill would ~~authorize a local public agency~~ *require the County of Los Angeles* to establish a homelessness resource telephone system to receive telephone calls regarding individuals who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in order to provide those individuals with resources. *By imposing new duties on the County of Los Angeles, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.*

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Los Angeles.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

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

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

SECTION 1. Article 6.7 (commencing with Section 53128) is added to Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, to read:

Article 6.7. Homelessness Resource Telephone System

53128. (a) For purposes of this article, ~~the following definitions apply:~~

~~(1)"Local public agency" means a city, county, city and county, and joint powers authority that provides a public safety answering point (PSAP).~~

~~(2)"Homelessness~~ "homelessness resource telephone system" means a system structured to provide access to resources provided by a local public agency to help address homelessness.

(b) ~~A local public agency may~~ *The County of Los Angeles shall* establish a homelessness resource telephone system to receive telephone calls regarding individuals who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in order to provide those individuals with resources.

SEC. 2. *The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique circumstances facing the County of Los Angeles with regard to homelessness.*

SEC. 3. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*