

- g) Recommendations for what actions may be taken by all levels of government (federal, state, and local) and the private sector that will contribute to the attainment of statewide housing goals;
- h) A housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups, including, but not limited to, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, large families, families where a female is the head of household, farmworker households, and other specific populations identified by HCD;
- i) A review of housing assistance policies, goals, and objectives affecting people experiencing homelessness;
- j) An inventory of the number of affordable units needed to meet both current and future statewide housing needs; and
- k) A housing data strategy.

This bill:

- 1) Adds veterans to the list of population groups that HCD must consider in the SHP.
- 2) Adds CalVet to the list of state departments HCD must consult with in the development of the state's housing strategy.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Author's Statement.* "California's Statewide Housing Plan describes the state's vision to ensure that all Californians have a safe and affordable home in which to live. Currently, the plan is required to include a housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups. AB 1474 adds veterans to the list of population groups included in the plan and requires the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to also consult with the California Department of Veterans Affairs in developing the plan. Many veterans, especially low-income veterans, have trouble finding affordable housing, and it is critical that we work on policies and programs that meet the housing needs of veterans. AB 1474 requires that HCD consider and incorporate the housing needs of veterans in the statewide housing plan so that we work to prevent veterans from experiencing housing instability."
- 2) *Veteran Housing Needs in California.* According to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, on a single night in 2022 approximately 10,395 veterans in California

were experiencing homelessness, with 7,392 of those veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness. A majority of California's veterans are considered cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing-related costs. Additionally, veterans face higher risks of homelessness than the general population, and 31% of the nation's homeless veterans are located in California.

- 3) *Statewide Housing Plan*. Every four years, HCD is required to produce a statewide plan on housing conditions and need, in coordination with the private sector and housing and planning agencies at various levels of government (i.e., state, regional, and local). The most recent plan was released in March of 2022.¹

According to the most recent version, "The Statewide Housing Plan lays out a vision to ensure every Californian has a safe, stable, and affordable home. The state is working towards three objectives to achieve this vision:

- a) Keep Californians in their homes;
- b) Produce more affordable and climate-smart housing; and
- c) Continue to act with urgency to address homelessness and housing needs.

The plan describes why we need to act now to address the state's housing affordability crisis, what we know about California's housing crisis, including how we got here and growing challenges, what the housing needs in California are, what our state and local governments are currently doing to address the problem, where we are going in the future, and how we will track our progress."

The SHP is required to plan a broad housing strategy that coordinates the housing assistance and activities of state and local agencies, including the provision of housing assistance for various population groups. Those groups are identified in statute but HCD has the authority to identify other specific population groups as well. The statutory groups listed include: elderly persons, persons with disabilities, large families, families where a female is the head of household, and farmworker households. To inform the strategy and the needs of specific populations, HCD is also required to consult with various state departments, including the California Department of Aging, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Health Care Services, the Employment Development Department, the State Department of Developmental Services, and other state departments or agencies as needed.

¹ [Statewide Housing Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

This bill would add veterans to the list of special populations the SHP must address and requires HCD to consult with CalVet in developing the SHP as it pertains to veterans housing needs.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

AB 426 (Jackson, 2023) — requires the SHP to include a strategy for the state to keep pace with building housing units and affiliated infrastructure during an economic downturn. *This bill is pending referral in the Senate.*

AB 1386 (Gabriel, 2023) — authorizes entities referring veterans to housing units funded by the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) or certain housing units supported by project-based housing vouchers to refer veterans at certain income levels if units are unable to be filled after 14 days at a lower income threshold. *This bill is pending referral in the Senate.*

AB 1508 (Ramos, 2023) — requires subsequent SHPs to include a goal to increase home ownership among first-time home buyers in the state by at least 20 percent above the average of home ownership rates among first-time home buyers over the prior 4-year period. *This bill is on the Assembly Floor.*

AB 68 (Quirk-Silva, Chapter 341, Statutes of 2021) — updated the contents of the SHP and expanded the requirements of the annual report produced by HCD.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.)

SUPPORT:

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Building Industry Association of Southern California
California Association of Veteran Service Agencies
County of San Bernardino
Habitat for Humanity California

OPPOSITION:

None received.