RN1522606 **SP 13**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR SENATOR SERRIN**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

SP 13: VETERANS HOUSING: AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

EXISTING LAW, THE VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION ACT OF 2014 (VHHPA), REQUIRES THE CALIFORNIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, AND PRESERVATION OF MULTIFAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, AFFORDABLE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING, OR RELATED FACILITIES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS SPECIFIED. EXISTING LAW, THE VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION BOND ACT OF 2014 (BOND ACT), AUTHORIZES THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $600,000,000, AS SPECIFIED, FOR EXPENDITURE BY THESE DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING THE VHHPA. THE BOND ACT AUTHORIZES THE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND ITS PROVISIONS BY A MAJORITY VOTE FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PURPOSE OF FURTHERING OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS PART OF THE VHHPA AND REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING FOR VETERANS WITH EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL VETERANS SERVICES AND PROVIDE FULLY DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AS SPECIFIED.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

SP 13: RELATING TO VETERANS HOUSING

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS OF ANY STATE; AND

WHEREAS, AN ESTIMATED 2 MILLION VETERANS LIVE IN CALIFORNIA, OF WHICH 16,000 ARE HOMELESS AND PRESENTLY LIVING IN POVERTY, EMERGENCY SHELTERS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, OR UNSHELTERED PLACES ON THE STREETS; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 20 TO 30 PERCENT OF THE HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA ARE SENIOR VETERANS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY OF CALIFORNIA’S HOMELESS VETERANS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, AND THE VIETNAM WAR, ARE PRESENTLY “AGING OUT” AND IN NEED OF PRIORITY ASSISTANCE; AND

WHEREAS, HOMELESS VETERANS EXPERIENCE GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING EXISTING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DUE TO VARIOUS CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE LACK OF AWARENESS OF THESE PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS, THE VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION BOND ACT OF 2014, ENACTED BY ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 639 OF THE 2013–14 REGULAR SESSION AND APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE JUNE 3, 2014, STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION, REPURPOSED $600,000,000 IN BOND PROCEEDS DESIGNATED TO HELP VETERANS PURCHASE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, MOBILEHOMES, AND FARMS, THAT WERE UNDERUTILIZED DUE TO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS; AND

WHEREAS, FOR MOST LOW-INCOME VETERANS, PURCHASING A HOME IS GENERALLY NOT A VIABLE OPTION AND, AS A RESULT, CURRENTLY AVAILABLE HOME PURCHASE FUNDING IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE UNDERUTILIZED; AND

WHEREAS, LOW-INCOME VETERANS NEED ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; AND

WHEREAS, A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WOULD PROVIDE CALIFORNIA VETERANS WITH ACCESS TO ADDED RENTAL HOUSING MADE AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO THE VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION ACT OF 2014, ENACTED BY ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 639 OF THE 2013–14 REGULAR SESSION; AND

WHEREAS, ESTABLISHING A RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, FULLY FUNDED VETERANS HOUSING WITH EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL SERVICES WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE HOMELESS, ELDERLY, OR DISABLED, TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS IN THIS STATE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR SENATE AND THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THERE BE ESTABLISHED A SPECIFIC, FULLY DEVELOPED, AND AUTHORIZED RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UTILIZING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 639 FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION, CONSISTENT WITH THE FEDERAL SECTION 8 AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COORDINATE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING FOR VETERANS WITH EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL VETERANS SERVICES; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDE FULLY DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE ANNUAL CALIFORNIA VETERANS RESOURCE BOOK; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.