RN1521820 **SP 4**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR SENATOR MEMBER DAHLGREN**

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Legislative Counsel’s Digest

SP 4: CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE: PERMANENT FUNDING.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD IS REQUIRED TO DESIGNATE ON TAX RETURNS SPACE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND. EXISTING LAW, THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT, SETS FORTH THE STATE’S COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD FUND THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE, A STATE AGENCY AS DESCRIBED IN THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN $500,000 ANNUALLY.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

SP 4: RELATING TO FUNDING THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, THE STATE PROVIDES CALIFORNIANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND BY SELECTING CODE 427 ON THEIR STATE INCOME TAX FORMS; AND

WHEREAS, CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND PROVIDE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE ON BEHALF OF OLDER PERSONS; AND

WHEREAS, MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO PRIORITIZE STATEWIDE REQUIREMENTS OF SENIORS AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION IN AREAS OF HEALTH, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES; AND

WHEREAS, THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT (CHAPTER 4 (COMMENCING WITH SECTION 9300) OF DIVISION 8.5 OF THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE) DETAILS THE COMPOSITION OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE, DECLARES THE NEED FOR SENIOR SERVICES, AND RELATES HOW FUNDING IS PROVIDED TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND; AND

WHEREAS, THE ACT STATES: “THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE SHALL HAVE THE FULL AUTHORITY TO DEFINE ITS PROGRAMS AND UTILIZE ITS FUNDS IN ANY WAY NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THIS CHAPTER, PROVIDED THAT NO SUCH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY IS IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW OR REGULATION”; AND

WHEREAS, MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THIS STATE, WHICH MAY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND; AND

WHEREAS, MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING PROPOSALS THAT MAY RESULT IN LEGISLATION BENEFITTING ALL CALIFORNIANS AGE 60 AND OVER; AND

WHEREAS, IN THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST’S OFFICE OVERVIEW OF THE 2015-16 GOVERNOR’S BUDGET PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE ON JANUARY 9, 2015, HIGHER REVENUE PROJECTIONS AND SPENDING INCREASES WERE AS FOLLOWS: “THE ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS THAT THE GENERAL FUND TAX REVENUES WILL END 2014-15 MORE THAN $2 BILLION ABOVE ITS PROJECTIONS IN LAST JUNE’S STATE BUDGET PACKAGE. FURTHER, THE ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS THAT THE GENERAL FUND’S THREE MAJOR TAXES COLLECTIVELY WILL INCREASE BY OVER $5.6 BILLION IN 2015-16–TO A LEVEL THAT IS MORE THAN $1 BILLION ABOVE ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATES FROM LAST JUNE FOR THE 2015-16 FISCAL YEAR. THESE HIGHER REVENUE PROJECTIONS RESULT IN A MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR INFLUX OF NEW FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES UNDER THE PROPOSITION 98 MINIMUM FUNDING GUARANTEE. THE ADMINISTRATION’S BUDGET ESTIMATES ALSO ASSUME THAT GENERAL FUND SPENDING FOR MEDI-CAL, THE STATE’S PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE, IS UP BY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN 2014-15, COMPARED TO LAST YEAR’S BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS, AND BY ABOUT $800 MILLION ABOVE THAT LEVEL IN 2015-16. THE BUDGET IDENTIFIES OTHER INCREASED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COSTS AND POTENTIAL BUDGETARY RISKS”; AND

WHEREAS, THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST’S OFFICE DETERMINED THE BUDGET ASSUMES INCREASED SPENDING BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES IN 2014-15 AND 2015-16: “THE REVISED DDS BUDGET FOR 2014-15 IS $3.1 BILLION GENERAL FUND, AN INCREASE OF $137 MILLION (4.6 PERCENT) ABOVE THE 2014-15 BUDGET APPROPRIATION. THE 2015-16 BUDGET IS PROPOSED TO BE $3.3 BILLION GENERAL FUND, AN INCREASE OF $201 MILLION (6.5 PERCENT) ABOVE THE REVISED 2014-15 LEVEL”; 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 THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROVIDE MINIMUM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $500,000 ANNUALLY TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE, A STATE AGENCY, AS DESCRIBED IN THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT; 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.