RN1620819 **AP 6**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER DIETER**

legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 6: CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUNDING.

EXISTING LAW, THE MELLO-GRANLUND OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT, ESTABLISHES THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) AND AUTHORIZES THE CSL TO DEFINE ITS PROGRAM AND UTILIZE ITS FUNDS TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES, AS SPECIFIED. THE ACT PROVIDES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CSL FROM THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND OR PRIVATE FUNDS DIRECTED TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR FUNDING CSL ACTIVITIES. THE ACT ALSO PERMITS THE CSL TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS FROM ANY SOURCE, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, TO HELP PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS.

EXISTING LAW PERMITS INDIVIDUALS TO DESIGNATE ON THEIR TAX RETURN THAT TAX CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF THEIR TAX LIABILITY BE GIVEN TO THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND UNLESS THE FUND RECEIVES LESS THAN THE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION PER CALENDAR YEAR AS DETERMINED BY THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD APPROPRIATE $500,000 ANNUALLY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO COVER CSL’S BASIC OPERATING COSTS AND CONTINUE TO PERMIT THE CSL TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS FROM ANY SOURCE TO HELP PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS.

 VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 6: RELATING TO CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUNDING

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL) WAS CREATED BY CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS AND SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR IN 1980; AND

WHEREAS, CSL MEMBERS SERVE INVALUABLE ROLES AS ADVOCATES FOR CALIFORNIA’S SENIORS BY ASSISTING CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS WITH IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE INDEPENDENT AND MEANINGFUL LIVING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT OF SENIORS; AND

WHEREAS, ALL 80 SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND 40 SENIOR SENATORS OF THE CSL SERVE VOLUNTARILY AND REPRESENT ALL PARTS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA; AND

WHEREAS, EXISTING LAW, CHAPTER 4 (COMMENCING WITH SECTION 9300) OF DIVISION 8.5 OF THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, DETAILS THE COMPOSITION OF THE CSL AND DECLARES THE NEED FOR SENIOR SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED IN CALIFORNIA; AND

WHEREAS, EXISTING LAW DECLARES THAT “THE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, RECREATION, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, HOUSING, CULTURAL SERVICES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AREAS OF SERVICE CAN BEST BE ASSESSED BY SENIOR CITIZENS”; AND

WHEREAS, EXISTING LAW ESTABLISHED THE CSL IN ITS CURRENT FORM AFTER IT “PROVED ITS USEFULNESS IN PROVIDING MODEL LEGISLATION FOR OLDER CITIZENS AND ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF SENIORS”; AND

WHEREAS, GOVERNORS RONALD REAGAN AND EDMUND G. BROWN, JR. HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED AND CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF CSL SERVICES TO CALIFORNIA SENIORS AS WELL AS TO CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1982, GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR. OBSERVED, “THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE OFFERS OUR OLDER CITIZENS A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST ME AND THE LEGISLATURE IN DEVELOPING PRIORITIES”; AND

WHEREAS, AT THE CSL 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1990, PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SAID, “I COMMEND THE MEMBERS OF THE CSL ... FOR BEING AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL, PROVING THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN INDEED HAVE A VOICE IN OUR LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM.”; AND

WHEREAS, IN THE PAST 34 YEARS, 198 CSL PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNORS. THE CSL HAS A TRACK RECORD OF WORKING WELL WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS STATE LEGISLATORS IN MITIGATING AND IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSIOLOGICAL DEMANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS, AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CSL HAS CONSISTENTLY ACTED AS A STRONG VOICE FOR SENIORS IN THE CAPITOL, AS EXPECTED BY LEGISLATORS AND THE GOVERNOR AT ITS INCEPTION; AND

WHEREAS, THE CSL IS A STATE ENTITY AND DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND; AND

WHEREAS, THE CSL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONS TO BE FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE STATE INCOME TAX FORM (NOW CODE 427). THIS FORM OF FUNDING WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1983; AND

WHEREAS, THE CSL HAS ALSO ACCEPTED DONATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES TO FUND AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS WHICH THE STATE CANNOT FUND; AND

WHEREAS, FUNDING HAS DRASTICALLY DECREASED OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, JEOPARDIZING THE EXISTENCE OF THE CSL AND ITS IMPORTANT ROLE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA; AND

WHEREAS, THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE FUND MUST RECEIVE THE MINIMUM TAX RETURN CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR, AS SET BY THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD, IN ORDER TO REMAIN A TAX RETURN CONTRIBUTION DESIGNATION OPTION; AND

WHEREAS, CONSEQUENTLY, CSL MEMBERS HAVE HAD TO SPEND A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THEIR TIME ACTIVELY RAISING FUNDS FOR THE CSL’S SURVIVAL; AND

WHEREAS, CSL MEMBERS SHOULD CONCENTRATE THEIR VOLUNTEERING EFFORTS ON ADVOCATING FOR CALIFORNIA’S SENIORS, NOT FUNDRAISING; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2015, CSL MEMBERS DID NOT HAVE THEIR ANNUAL OCTOBER LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN-PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 35 YEARS DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING; AND

WHEREAS, ANNUALLY, THE CSL PAYS MORE THAN $65,000 TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES FOR SERVICES, INCLUDING INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING. FOR THE CSL, PROBABLY THE SMALLEST STATE ENTITY, THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY. IF THE CSL CEASES TO EXIST, IT WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THOSE STATE AGENCIES, WHICH WILL SUBSEQUENTLY LOSE INCOME AS WELL; AND

WHEREAS, AS A STATE ENTITY, THE CSL NEEDS A MINIMUM OF $500,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO COVER ITS BASIC OPERATING COSTS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2016 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATE $500,000 ANNUALLY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO COVER THE CSL’S BASIC OPERATING COSTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE CONTINUE TO BE PERMITTED TO ACCEPT GIFTS AND GRANTS FROM ANY SOURCE, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, TO HELP PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 9305 OF THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE; 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 SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.