

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 15

Introduced by Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil

October 1, 2025

This bill aims to provide housing for unhoused individuals, as well as health benefits, and reintroduce them into the workforce.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 15, as introduced, Alvarado-Gil. Shelters for Communities and Agriculture Management

Existing law currently states that it is prohibited for an unhoused individual to be housed in a public area without permission. An unhoused individual may be charged with a misdemeanor if found guilty of willfully obstructing an area.

This bill would create both job opportunities for unhoused individuals and provide them with housing. Unhoused individuals will be allowed to move to a homeless shelter, where they will receive the necessary support and be offered the chance to work. If they agree to work, they will be relocated to a rural area where they can access agricultural work, along with free housing, counseling, and a paid job at the minimum wage.

New housing facilities will be constructed for the unhoused individuals. Housing apartments will be built for 50 individuals who are currently unhoused. Agriculture will be a prioritized job to utilize the unused space in rural areas. Multiple jobs will be provided, and the unhoused individuals will be allowed to choose.

Multiple agencies must work with the new homeless shelter. That includes the California Housing and Homelessness Agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health Care Services. As well as the local government to supply the land and jobs.

This bill requests ~~\$15 million United States Dollars.~~ \$7,500,000 to accomplish this goal.

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Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes _____

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

SECTION 1. “Unhoused Individuals” are defined as someone who currently does not have a home and cannot afford to rent a house or a livable space.

(a) The unhoused individual must also not be currently working but must be currently looking for a job.

(b) The unhoused individual must also be willing to work in the described fields, which may include agriculture

SEC. 2. Health benefits

(a) The unhoused individual must agree to take both physical counseling and mental health counseling during their stay at the homeless shelter.

(b) Health benefits are free of charge for those who are currently living in the homeless shelter.

SEC. 3. Location of the new homeless shelter and workplace

(a) The new homeless shelters will be built in rural areas that currently have a low workforce and have available farmable land.

(b) The new location must be budgeted into the budget for a sufficient amount of funds to be granted.

(c) New location must not be of an incredible distance from an emergency facility, which includes a health facility, fire department, and police department.

Sec. 4. Dispersion of funds

(a) The \$7,500,000 will be distributed to whichever agency is able to adhere to all the rules of California Housing and Homelessness Agency, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health Care Services. As well as the local government and the rules provided in this bill.