

**SELECTED LAWS ENACTED IN CALIFORNIA THAT ADDRESS
 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING**
(Through 2005)

The following is a brief overview of legislative bills relating to homelessness and housing that were enacted in California. The list of bills was compiled using the following sources: the Office of Senate Research Reports—“Highlights of California Legislation on Housing, Homelessness and Urban Growth”; the California Research Bureau Publication “Addressing Long Term Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing”; the California Housing Law Project; Legislative Analysts Office Report: “Alternatives to Armories”; and the Official California Legislative website. Please note the research was guided by the availability of information using the sources listed, and the following may not be an exhaustive list of all legislation relating to homelessness.

I. PREVENTION

Discharge Planning

Timeline	Event	Description
1999-2000	SB 1858	Required state health/mental health facilities to develop discharge/aftercare plans for discharges.
2000	AB 1593	Stated legislative intent to encourage coordination among public agencies that provide services to homeless individuals and agencies that discharge people from institutions such as hospitals and jails. (See also Report of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force on Homelessness: 2000)
2001	AB 427	Added an additional \$18 million to programs aimed at helping foster youth successfully transition to independence.
2005	AB 824	Stabilizes housing needs for youth exiting the foster care program by offering transitional assistance up to age 24.
2005	SB 436	Requires counties that provide transitional housing placement services to describe in their annual Independent Living Program reports the currently available transitional housing resources for emancipating pregnant or parenting foster youth, and a plan for meeting any unmet transitional housing needs of these youth.

Housing Retention

Timeline	Event	Description
1987-1988	SB 1473	Required prior notice to residents prior to conversion of at-risk housing.
1993-1994	SB 690	Established a 2-year study of pre-trial rent deposits by tenants in eviction actions.
1998-1999	AB 1384	Prevent eviction of innocent tenants in units with drug activity.
1999-2000	AB 3926	Increased tenant protections to residents of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units.

II. OUTREACH and ENGAGEMENT

Timeline	Event	Description
1993-94	AB 2463	Required University of California and California State University systems to conduct outreach to emancipated/ing foster youth.
1997-1998	AB 2495	Passed Runaway Youth & Families in Crisis Project, a 3-year pilot program offering grants to organizations helping homeless youth.
2001	AB 334	Expanded the AB 34 (1999) program, which established a pilot program to provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to the homeless mentally ill; required outreach for early intervention.
2001	Senate Resolution 18	Asked the State Attorney General to assess the problem of crimes against homeless persons and develop a plan to prevent and report these crimes and to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators.
2001-2002	AB 1060	Required State Department of Veterans Affairs and State Department of Health Services to study the status of homeless veterans and to propose ways to provide adequate housing for them.
2004	AB 1639	Supported foster youth's right to access information on higher education. Laid a foundation for foster youth to begin thinking about higher education and pursue their educational goals.
2005	AB 599	Requires a state mandated local program to provide services and outreach to homeless veterans in need of mental health services but who are not eligible for care by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal health care providers.
2005	ACR 94	Encourages Californians to aid those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

III. INTEGRATION and EXPANSION OF SERVICES

Timeline	Event	Description
1993-1994	AB 3550	Expanded and refunded youth homeless drug prevention programs.
1995-1996	AB 1371	Mandated that counties establish a Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program, under which employment and training services are provided to AFDC recipients.
1999-2000	Assembly Joint Resolution No.39	Outlined the need for a comprehensive plan to end homelessness nationwide and requested the federal government to establish a "National Commission on Homelessness"
1999-2000	AB 643	Established California YouthBuild Program, which provided grants (contingent on appropriations) for job training/education in conjunction with housing for disadvantaged youth.
2000	AB 34/2034	Funded programs providing comprehensive services to mentally ill persons who are homeless, at-risk of becoming homeless, or recently released from jail or prison. Gave priority to permanent housing projects.
2000	AB 1593	Implemented many of the recommendations of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force on Homelessness. Among other things, the bill stated legislative intent to encourage coordination among public agencies that provide services to homeless individuals and agencies that discharge people from institutions such as hospitals and jails. It also required providers of emergency shelter or transitional housing to permit all members of a family to be housed together regardless of gender or age, to the greatest extent feasible. It required lead agencies in the Supportive Housing Grant Program to give preference to proposals that demonstrate links to programs established under the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act as expanded by AB 34 (Steinberg), or other integrated services projects supported with state and local government funds. (See also Report of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force on Homelessness (2000)).
2000	AB 1718	Established a continuing education classroom-training course for law enforcement officers regarding intervention with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons.
2001	AB 334	Expanded the AB 34 (1999) program, which established a pilot program to provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to the homeless mentally ill; Required outreach for early intervention; Defined the training, consultation, and technical assistance required from the Department of Mental Health (DMH); Modified reporting requirements.
2001	AB 534	Extended and expanded the AB 34 of 1999 program in the 3 counties (Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Stanislaus) originally selected for pilot programs to provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to the homeless mentally ill.
2001-2002	SB 185	Required the Maternal and Child Health branch of the Department of Health Services to visit each agency (domestic violence shelter) receiving a grant from them, perform an evaluation and offer technical assistance.
2002	AB 2057	Required the Department of Mental Health to include in its annual evaluation report on the effectiveness of the Integrated Services for Homeless Adults program additional information relating to persons enrolled in the Medi-Cal program.
2002-2003	AB 1119	Eliminated the requirement that a youth receive aid pursuant to Supportive Transitional Emancipation Program (STEP) in order to be eligible for transitional housing placement services.

IV. HOUSING

Housing and Shelter

Timeline	Event	Description
1983-1984	AB 1363 and AB 2579	Provided \$2.7 million for new state emergency shelter for the homeless program.
1983-1984	SB 26	Provided \$5 million rehabilitation of residential hotels for the homeless.
1983-1984	SB 2243	Provided \$3 million for a new self-help housing program.
1985	SB 478	Created Housing Trust Fund (first in the nation) with \$20 million/year promised for the creation of housing.
1985-1986	AB 1996	Required that Housing Elements identify sites for homeless shelters.
1987	1987 Exec. Order originated program, extended/amended by California Assembly and Senate legislation via AB 1808 & 1691 (93-94), AB 758 & 553 (95-96), AB 67 & 242 and SB 255 (97-98), AB 612 & 1954 (99-00), SB 1551 (01-02), and SB 716 (03-04); LAO Report (1997): Alternatives to Armories	Opened state's National Guard armories as temporary (wintertime) shelters for homeless; LAO Report notes that local governments, not state government, is primarily responsible for emergency shelter of the homeless because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. state lacks expertise in providing direct services to homeless 2. state lacks in-depth information on needs of individual communities state does not have authority or knowledge to choose appropriate shelter locations
1987	AB 2531	Included rural motels in state residential hotel program.
1987-1988	Proposition 77	Provided \$150 million in GO bonds for housing.
1987-1988	Proposition 84	Provided \$300 million in GO bonds for housing.
1987-1988	AB 2144	Exempted nonprofit low-income housing from local property taxes.
1987-1988	SB 753	Exempted emergency shelters for the homeless from property taxes.
1987-1988	SB 1693 (Housing and Homeless Act)	Provided \$600 million in GO bonds for housing.
1988	Proposition 84 (Housing and Homeless Bond Act of 1988)	Provided \$300 million in bond proceeds for funding new housing with on-site support services. Funded state housing programs to develop new affordable housing rental housing for elderly or disabled persons; rehabilitate residential hotels and rental housing; and provide emergency shelters and farm-worker housing.
1987-1988	Proposition 77	Provided \$150 million in GO bonds for housing.
1990	Proposition 107 (Housing and Homeless Bond Act of 1990)	Provided \$150 million in bond proceeds. Divided funds among state housing programs to develop new affordable rental housing for elderly or disabled persons, and farm-workers; rehabilitate residential hotels; add emergency shelters and transitional housing; and assist first-time, low-income home-buyers.
1993	SB 388	Created a new Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, with funding at same level of the program it replaced (\$2 million).
1998	AB 2780 (Supportive Housing Initiative Act)	Established a grant program to encourage the development of permanent, affordable housing with supportive services targeting persons with disabilities, special needs, and chronic health problems.
1999	AB 1105	Continued to make National Guard armories available to local governments for use as emergency homeless shelters indefinitely, along with other budget-trailer provisions.

Timeline	Event	Description
1999	SB 1121	Combined and coordinated state housing programs to streamline the process of funding affordable-housing projects.
1999	AB 97	Continued \$35 million in annual state tax credits for development of low-income housing projects.
1999	AB 1599	Cut administrative requirements on various forms of low-income and assisted housing to qualify for partial property-tax exemptions
2000	AB 1626 (Low Income Housing Tax Credits)	Increased the Low Income Housing Tax Credits cap from \$35 million to \$50 million per year.
2000	SB 1656 (Housing Trust Fund)	Reconfigured the Housing Trust Fund to work as an endowment to provide a permanent source of financing for affordable housing programs. Also created the CalHome Program.
2001-2002	AB 1354	Stated that under the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, providers of emergency or transitional housing are not precluded from restricting occupancy on the basis of age.
2002	SB 73	Increased the Low Income Housing Tax Credits cap from \$50 million to \$70 million per year plus an adjustment for inflation.
2002	SB 372	Established the Preservation Opportunity Program and the Interim Repositioning Program to provide loans to preserve the affordability Section 8, Section 202, and Section 515 housing developments when the owners opt out of existing contracts.
2002	Proposition 46 (Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002)/SB 1227	Financed \$2.1 billion in affordable housing construction. Provided \$390 million for emergency shelters and permanent housing with support services for homeless seniors, battered women, mentally ill persons and veterans.
2002	AB 1891	Required Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide matching grants to any program that has a shelter trust fund.
2003-2004	AB 1475	Tied Proposition 46 monies for supportive housing to help the mentally ill. Amended the three programs that fund supportive housing to try to maximize existing resources by leveraging AB 34 services funding and Proposition 46 capital development funds with each other, thereby accelerating the development of supportive housing for homeless mentally ill people. Amends MHP by requiring HCD to give priority to supportive housing projects. Extended the 2004 sunset date on the SHIA to January 1, 2009. Required counties that receive an AB 34 grant after January 1, 2004, to contract with sponsors of new supportive housing developments to the greatest extent possible, and encourages participating counties to commit a portion of their grant to long-term leases for units in such developments.
2003	AB 1765	Provided \$5.3 million in funding to homeless shelter operating grants, which were not eligible under Proposition 46.
2004	SB 1113	Provided \$1.3 million for the Emergency Housing Assistance Program, which makes operating grants to local agencies for homeless shelters.
2005	AB 139	Requires the following allocation: \$195 million shall be transferred to the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund to be expended for supportive housing projects under the Multifamily Housing Program to serve individuals and households moving from emergency shelters or transitional housing or those at risk of homelessness.

Timeline	Event	Description
2005	Governor's Initiative to Address Chronic Homelessness	As part of the initiative, the Governor is pledging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Up to \$40 million in Proposition 46 funds to leverage private sector resources to produce 400 to 500 new supportive housing units. ◆ \$10 million in funds from the California Housing Finance Agency to provide financial resources to community organizations that lend to supportive housing projects. ◆ \$875,000 in Proposition 63 and state general fund dollars to provide for the formation of an interagency council on homelessness and pre-development costs such as permitting, engineering costs, site development and environmental reports.
2005	SB 77	Makes appropriations to fund homeless programs and services, including \$3.1 million from the Mental Health Services Fund as one-time funding for rent subsidies, predevelopment costs for housing for the mentally ill, and collaborative efforts to promote stable housing for homeless persons. These funds will be used for the Governor's Initiative to Address Chronic Homelessness and the funds are available for expenditure in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 fiscal year. In addition, \$864,000 on a one-time basis is sustained from the General Fund for the Emergency Housing Assistance Program to continue shelter beds during a transition period while new beds are developed under the Governor's proposal to create permanent housing with supportive services for the chronically homeless.

Community Perceptions

Timeline	Event	Description
1983-1984	AB 998	Decreased time for NIMBY ("not in my backyard") organizations to file suit to stop affordable housing developments.
1989-1990	AB 2011	Created state anti-NIMBY law, limiting local government denials of housing.
1993	ACR 73	Declared November 1993 Homeless Awareness Month.
1994-1995	AB 2003	Limited discrimination by localities against low-income housing.
1999	SB 1098	Prohibited a landlord from discriminating against a tenant or prospective tenant based on source of income. Required 3-months written notice of Section 8 cancellation, prohibited rent increases after Section 8 cancellation.
1999	SB 948	Strengthened the existing anti-NIMBY law by requiring local governments who seek to disapprove an affordable housing development proposal to make a finding that such a development would create a "quantifiable, direct and unavoidable" adverse impact on public health or safety.
1999	AB 919	Strengthened existing "anti-NIMBY" law, similar to SB 948, and sought to reduce barriers and encourage the development of more affordable housing.
2003	AB 1594	Prohibited emergency shelter or transitional housing providers from restricting occupancy on the basis of military veteran status, in the same manner that providers are prohibited from discriminating against a person because of sex or because the person is 24 years of age or younger.
2003-2004	SB 619	Extended zoning discrimination protection to other types of housing developments.
2004	AB 1234	Among other provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Established a uniform definition of "hate crime", which includes a crime against a person committed due to the victim's homelessness. ◆ Required the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to redirect existing resources to develop a course on crimes against the homeless.

Timeline	Event	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Required law enforcement agencies to report crimes against homeless persons to the Attorney General. ◆ Required the Attorney General to report annually to the Legislature regarding crimes against homeless persons.
2005	SB 575	Expands the anti-NIMBY law and revises the conditions upon which a disapproval or conditional approval of a housing development project are based. Expressly authorizes the applicant for the housing development project to bring an action in court and would also authorize the court to vacate the decision of the local agency, and impose fines if the court finds that the local agency acted in bad faith and failed to carry out the court's order or judgment within 60 days.

Sources:

Legislative bills for sessions 1993-2005 were compiled from the California Legislature's website, using its search engine available at <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/> and search terms "homelessness." [Note – bills prior to 1993 are not available online through the California Legislature's website]

Legislative bills for sessions 1983-1993 were compiled using the California Housing Law Project summary available at <http://www.housingadvocates.org/>, and select bills and legislation from 1985- 2002 were taken from the document "Addressing Long Term Homelessness: Permanent Supportive Housing" by the California Research Bureau, found at: www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm. Note – the selected bills pertain mostly to housing and may not be a comprehensive list of all legislation relating to homeless.

See also Office of Senate Research, Highlights of California Legislation on Housing, Homelessness and Urban Growth from 1998 to 2003 can be found at:
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/HOUSING2003.HTML>
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/HOUSING2002.HTML>
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/HOUSINGURBGRO92001.HTML>
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/HousingOct2000.htm#Homelessness>
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/Housingaccomp.html>
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/policy/housing/HUDLeg98.htm>

California Legislative Analysts Office, Sheltering the Homeless: Alternatives to the Armories (1997) available at www.lao.ca.gov ("LAO Report: Alternatives to Armories").

The Governor's Initiative can be found on the State of California website (Governor's Homepage) at: <http://www.governor.ca.gov>

See also:

A Home for Every Californian: The Recommendations of the California Senate Bipartisan Task Force on Homelessness (March 2001) available at http://www.sen.ca.gov/sor/reports/reports_by_subj/economy_employment/homeless.htm.