

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 01/24/2012
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 663
AUTHOR: Correa, Lou
RELATED BILLS: 1198 (Calderon)

BILL SUMMARY: California Department of Veterans Affairs Strategic Plan: Homeless Veterans

This bill would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to include specified information related to homeless veterans in its annual strategic plan, and to submit the plan to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The CDVA indicates that any costs resulting from this measure would be minor and absorbable within existing resources, as the department already collects this information and already provides copies of its strategic plan to every member of the Assembly and the Senate.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it is unnecessary, as the CDVA indicates that the requirements of this bill can be met without a legislative mandate. We note that the CDVA already considers and collects the information required in this bill and is willing to include it in the department's strategic plan. Additionally, the CDVA already submits copies of the plan to all members of the Legislature.

The author's office states that California has one of the largest veteran populations in the country and that its homeless veteran population is one of the highest. According to the author's office, the intent of this bill is to ensure that the CDVA strategic plan includes relevant information related to addressing the needs of homeless veterans.

We note that in 2009, the Bureau of State Audits identified in an audit report that the CDVA needed to improve its strategic planning process, as well as its outreach efforts and coordination with other entities. This report also stated that the CDVA agreed with the bureau's recommendations and was moving forward to implement them.

We also note that Governor Brown, on August 23, 2011, issued an Executive Order directing the Secretary of the CDVA to establish an Inter-Departmental Council on Veterans Services that would identify and prioritize the needs of California's veterans and would coordinate the activities, at all levels of government, in addressing those needs.

Existing law establishes the CDVA with specified powers and duties relating to various programs serving veterans, including establishing housing projects.

This bill would require the CDVA to include in its strategic plan a review of the goals and objectives relating to homeless veterans and whether the CDVA's methods of planning, analyzing, developing, monitoring, and implementing the plan will likely reduce homelessness among veterans, as well as the number of homeless veterans in this state and the number of those veterans who received benefits from state or federal programs, as provided.

Analyst/Principal (0234) J.Carosone	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann Mangat	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

Correa, Lou

01/24/2012

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COMMENTS (continued)

This bill would also require the CDVA to submit the strategic plan the Legislature, as specified.

A related bill, SB 1198 (Calderon) of the current legislative session, would require the CDVA to publicize information pertaining to benefit programs that are available to qualified homeless veterans, as provided. SB 1198 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee with this bill on August 8, 2012.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015
8950/Dept VetsAFF	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----		0001