



SENATOR ANNA CABALLERO
TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT

**SENATE BILL 611: Master Plan for Aging:
Housing Older Persons Effectively (HOPE) Task Force**

SUMMARY

SB 611 establishes the Housing Older Persons Effectively (HOPE) Task Force as part of the state's Master Plan for Aging.

BACKGROUND

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the state's over-65 population will nearly double by 2030, increasing by four million people-- all the while becoming more racially and economically diverse. This demographic shift will impact all areas of the service delivery system – especially housing.

The state's lack of affordable housing and higher costs of living force many older adults who live on fixed incomes into poverty and homelessness. According to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, more than half of low-income older tenants are severely rent-burdened, spending more than 50 percent of income on housing. This disparity between housing cost and income is leading to a rise in older adults experiencing homelessness. In 2018, Los Angeles reported a decrease in the overall homeless population, while at the same time noting a surge in the homeless population over the age of 62.

As policymakers develop solutions to California's housing crisis, it is important that the needs of older adults not be forgotten. Older adults are more likely to have multiple chronic health conditions, increased frailty and limited mobility, requiring housing and services to meet their needs. In the absence of housing alternatives, many will be forced into institutional settings – which not only hurts families, but leads to increased costs for the state.

Now, more than ever, California needs a thoughtful plan to meet the growing need for affordable, accessible housing for older adults.

SOLUTION

SB 611 calls on the Governor's Office to establish the Housing Older Persons Effectively (HOPE) Task Force as part of the state's Master Plan for Aging. As part of the Master Plan process, the HOPE Task Force will convene stakeholders from around the state to:

- Measure and assess the need for affordable and accessible senior housing;
- Identify current state housing programs serving older adults;
- Identify policies to help older adults and people with disabilities age in place;
- Identify innovative and effective solutions that bring health and social services to older adults in their homes;
- Identify best practices in and regulatory barriers to the development of intergenerational housing that includes co-located services and supports for older adults;
- Make recommendations to the Legislature for policy changes to implement the findings of the Task Force.

SUPPORT

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma (co-sponsor)
LeadingAge California (co-sponsor)

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