

# Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

## 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



### AB 86 – Statewide Homelessness Coordinator

#### SUMMARY

AB 86 will strengthen California's response to homelessness by establishing a Statewide Homelessness Coordinator as the lead entity for ending homelessness in California.

#### BACKGROUND

In recent years, California has taken a larger fiscal role in funding and supporting local governments as the housing affordability and homelessness crisis has become more severe. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, over 170,000 individuals experience homelessness in California, a 6.2% increase since 2020. As such, the state has invested more than \$14 billion to help address the crisis and support housing programs that will shelter unhouse individuals.

Nonetheless, California continues to have the nation's largest homeless population, likely in part because its approach to addressing homelessness has been disjointed. Unlike in some states, no single state entity in California oversees efforts to address homelessness or is responsible for developing a statewide strategic plan. Instead, at least nine state agencies administer and oversee 41 different programs that provide funding for purposes related to homelessness.

In 2017, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (council), formerly known as the Homelessness Coordinating and Financing Council, was established to coordinate existing funding and build partnerships with stakeholders to develop strategies to end homelessness. Yet, a review by the State Auditor in 2020 found that the council had failed to do so. As a result, California continues to lack a comprehensive understanding of its spending to address homelessness, the specific services the

programs provide, or the individuals who receive those services.

Considering the magnitude of the homelessness crisis in California and the amount of funding the state and federal governments have invested, there is a real need to ensure that its system for addressing problems at both the state and local levels is consistent and effective.

#### THIS BILL

AB 86 will address the lack of intergovernmental coordination to address homelessness by requiring the Governor to appoint a Statewide Homelessness Coordinator. This bill requires the coordinator to identify a local leader and the appropriate jurisdiction to serve as a liaison to the state.

The coordinator is charged with overseeing homelessness programs, services, data, and policies between federal, state, and local agencies. Lastly, in collaboration with local leaders, the coordinator would provide annual recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor.

#### CONTACT

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