

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Cottie Petrie-Norris, Chair

AB 349 (Ramos) – As Introduced January 31, 2023

SUBJECT: Patton State Hospital: lease: housing and mental health services for homeless

SUMMARY: Specifically, **this bill** would authorize the Department of General Services (DGS), with the consent of the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), to let a building located at the Patton State Hospital (PSH) to a nonprofit corporation or local government to provide housing and mental health services to unsheltered individuals.

It would also delete the existing authority for DGS, with the consent of DSH, to let a building located at PSH to a nonprofit corporation or local government, for up to 20 years, for the purpose of providing services to elderly persons.

EXISTING LAW:

With the consent of the state agency concerned, DGS may let for a period not to exceed five years, any real or personal property that belongs to the state, unless expressly prohibited by law, if it is in the best interest of the state. (Government Code Section 14670)

Authorizes DGS, with the consent of DSH, to let a building located at the PSH to a nonprofit corporation or local government, for up to 20 years, for the purpose of providing services to elderly persons. (Government Code Section 14672.95)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

DGS has authorized numerous state property lease agreements with nonprofit corporations and local governments to provide services to Californians that are in the best interest of the state. In fact, the Patton State Hospital currently has a lease agreement with the Highland Senior Center (HSC), a nonprofit corporation, to operate a senior adult recreational and social facility on its grounds. The purpose of the HSC is to improve the quality of life for seniors through educational classes, social interaction, and special outreach programs.

In 1986, the HSC entered into a 20-year lease agreement that expired in 2006. Subsequently, the HSC entered into a five-year lease agreement that expired on November 30, 2013. In 2012, legislation reauthorized the state to continue leasing a building at the PSH to provide services to elderly persons. However, HSC has reverted to using five-year lease agreements.

This legislative proposal to authorize a nonprofit organization or local government to lease space at the PSH to provide housing and mental health services to unsheltered Californians is consistent with state practice. In fact, the Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk leases space to nonprofit organizations to provide temporary housing and services to homeless families (Rio Hondo Temporary Home), and long-term housing for persons with mental illness (Homes for Life).

According to the Author:

“Creating stable housing placement offering medical care and other services for this large portion of our local unsheltered, demands an urgent, effective, collaborative, all-hands-on-deck approach. No one entity, no one source of funding is adequate to solve our growing behaviorally ill and unsheltered population. City, county, state and community resources must be leveraged to deal with this issue.”

According to the Author’s background material, San Bernardino County’s last point in time count found 3,333 individuals who were homeless with 43.5% of those counted as being homeless for one year or more and having a disabling condition such as mental illness, chronic health condition, and/or a physical disability. The City of San Bernardino has seen a 175% increase in homelessness over the past five years. The Patton State Hospital is located in the County of San Bernardino and would be a prime location to housing and mental health services for unsheltered individuals.

Arguments in Support:

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition:

None on file.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION:

AB 2385 (Ramos) of 2020, which was held in the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee, was similar to this bill.

SB 1217 (Dutton), Chapter 707, Statutes of 2012, reauthorized DGS, with the consent of the Department of Mental Health, to let a building located at PSH to a nonprofit corporation or local government, for up to 20 years, for the purpose of providing services to elderly persons.

SB 1648 (Nielsen), Chapter 224, Statutes of 1986, authorized DGS, with the consent of the Department of Mental Health, to let a building located at PSH to a nonprofit corporation or local government, for up to 20 years, for the purpose of providing services to elderly persons.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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