

AB 72 (Santiago and Chiu)

State Housing Code Enforcement Funding

Bill Summary

Assembly Bill 72 would appropriate one-time funds (amount TBD) to the Office of the Attorney General, from California's General Fund, to assist in the enforcement of existing laws in order to support the development of new housing.

Existing Law

Various sections of the state's Government Code regulate the manner in which local governments should make decisions pertaining to zoning, land-use, and development, amongst other things.

Some of these laws are intended to encourage the development of new housing; especially housing that is affordable for all Californians.

Background

The need to build more housing in California has skyrocketed over the last decade, especially following the development slow down after the country's most recent recession.

As demand continues to outpace the supply of new housing, the cost of housing has risen precipitously.

During 2016's stakeholder meetings pertaining to affordable housing and by-right development protocols, it was noted that additional resources should be provided to the Attorney General to assist in enforcing the state's existing laws.

Need for AB 72

While many local governments are devoting large amounts of energy and attention to the issue of increasing housing production, there are others who have been unable to do so – due to either a lack of will by the local legislative body or by constituent groups within those localities.

In some areas, attempts have even been made to block future housing developments of various kinds.

A recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* noted that "in some ways, state lawmakers' hands are tied on boosting housing supply because cities and counties primarily control building and permitting."

By appropriating additional funds to the Attorney General for enforcement duties, AB 72 will be an important step towards ensuring the continued construction of fair and equitable affordable housing across California.

Sponsors

California Housing Consortium
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Western Center on Law & Poverty

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

For More Information

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