

Primary Election

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Don't Delay, Vote Today!

Early vote-by-mail ballot voting period is from February 5 through March 5, 2024.

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 5, 2024, Election Day!



VOTE SAFE CALIFORNIA

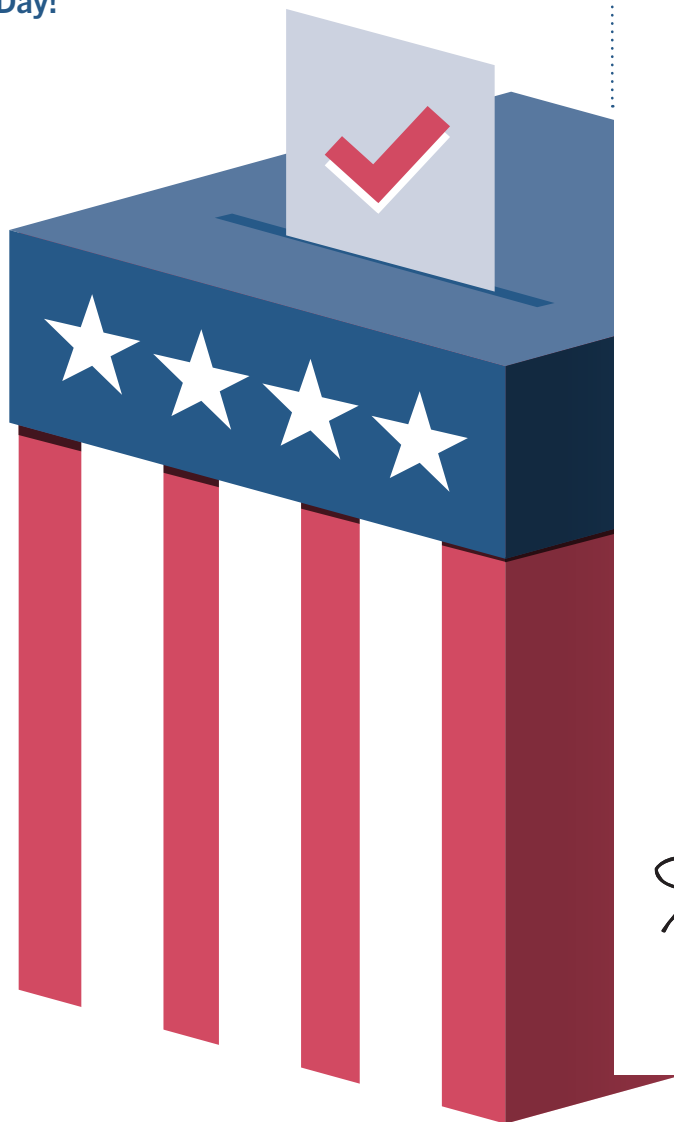
Every registered voter in California will receive a vote-by-mail ballot.

Vote-by-mail ballots are mailed on or before February 5.

Vote-by-mail ballots can be voted and returned as soon as they are received.

Vote-by-mail drop boxes open February 6.

In-person voting options will be available in all counties.



Certificate of Correctness

I, Shirley N. Weber, Secretary of State of the State of California, do hereby certify that the information included herein will be submitted to the electors of the State of California at the Presidential Primary Election to be held throughout the State on March 5, 2024, and that this guide has been correctly prepared in accordance with the law. Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State in Sacramento, California, this 11th day of December, 2023.




Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
Secretary of State



Mobile-Friendly
SCAN ME

VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- 1** **The right to vote if you are a registered voter.** You are eligible to vote if you are:
 - a U.S. citizen living in California
 - at least 18 years old
 - registered where you currently live
 - not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and
 - not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- 2** **The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list.** You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.
- 3** **The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.**
- 4** **The right to cast a secret ballot** without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.
- 5** **The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake,** if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:
 - Ask an elections official at a polling place** for a new ballot,
 - Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot** for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place, or
 - Vote using a provisional ballot.**
- 6** **The right to get help casting your ballot** from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.
- 7** **The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place** in California.
- 8** **The right to get election materials in a language other than English** if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.
- 9** **The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures** and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.
- 10** **The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity** to an elections official or the Secretary of State's office.
 -  On the web at www.sos.ca.gov
 -  By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**
 -  By email at elections@sos.ca.gov

**IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DENIED ANY OF THESE RIGHTS, CALL THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S
CONFIDENTIAL TOLL-FREE VOTER HOTLINE AT (800) 345-VOTE (8683).**

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE	5
PROPOSITION	
1 Authorizes \$6.38 Billion in Bonds to Build Mental Health Treatment Facilities for Those With Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges; Provides Housing for the Homeless. Legislative Statute.	10
OVERVIEW OF STATE BOND DEBT	16
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS	21
TEXT OF PROPOSED LAW	37
VOTER INFORMATION	
Voter Bill of Rights.....	2
Presidential Candidate Statements.....	3
Top Contributors.....	3
Message from the Secretary of State.....	4
Election Day Information.....	5
Find Your Polling Place.....	5
Election Results.....	5
My Voter Status.....	5
How to Vote for President.....	6
Trusted Sources of Information.....	7
Election Security Safeguards.....	7
Don't Delay, Vote Today!.....	8
Where's My Ballot?.....	8
More Days, More Ways to Vote with VCA.....	9
Elections in California.....	17
Political Party Statements.....	18
Information About Candidate Statements.....	20
Electioneering Notice.....	106
Corruption of Voting Process Notice.....	107
California Motor Voter.....	108
Voter Registration Privacy Information.....	108
Voting Rights Restored.....	109
Serve as a Poll Worker.....	109
Assistance for Voters with Disabilities.....	110
Dates to Remember.....	111



United States Presidential Candidates

United States Presidential candidate statements can be found online at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

Top Contributors to State Candidates and Ballot Measures

When a committee (a person or group of people who receive or spend money for the purpose of influencing voters to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures) raises at least \$1 million, it must report its top 10 contributors to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The committee must update the list when there is any change.

These lists are available on the FPPC website at: fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html.

To research campaign contributions for candidates or ballot measures, visit the Secretary of State's website at powersearch.sos.ca.gov.





Message from the Secretary of State

Dear California Voter,

Every Election Matters. To ensure our democracy thrives, your participation in every election is vital. As a California voter, you will have the opportunity in the upcoming March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election to vote on elected offices at all levels of government, and to directly impact state and local policies by voting on the state ballot proposition and local measures.

This Voter Information Guide can help you make decisions about the statewide candidates and issues on the March 5th ballot. In addition to information about when and where to cast your ballot, this guide includes important information about the United States Senate and Presidential Primary races, the state ballot proposition, as well as your rights as a California voter.

More Days, More Ways—To make it easier for you to participate in the upcoming election, you have more days and more ways to vote!

By February 5, 2024, counties will mail each active registered voter in California their ballot for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election. While Election Day on March 5, 2024, is the **last** day to vote in California's 2024 Presidential Primary, **you can return your ballot earlier:**

- By mail, using the postage-paid envelope provided (don't forget to sign it!)
- At *Early Voting* sites starting February 5, 2024
- At drop-off locations opening no later than February 6, 2024
- At Vote Centers in *Voter's Choice Act* counties starting February 24, 2024

To find a location for early voting sites, please visit: caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov.

Make A Plan To Vote—Will you return your ballot by mail? Drop it at a drop box? Or vote in person at a neighborhood polling place or vote center? Research your options and make a plan today!

Track Your Ballot—Track your vote-by-mail ballot by signing up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to receive text, email, or voice status alerts.

Remember your participation in this election will affect your family, your community, and the future of California.

Thank you for keeping our democracy strong!

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

PROP
1

AUTHORIZES \$6.38 BILLION IN BONDS TO BUILD MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES; PROVIDES HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

SUMMARY

Put on the Ballot by the Legislature

Amends Mental Health Services Act to provide additional behavioral health services. **Fiscal Impact:** Shift roughly \$140 million annually of existing tax revenue for mental health, drug, and alcohol treatment from counties to the state. Increased state bond repayment costs of \$310 million annually for 30 years. **Supporters:** California Professional Firefighters; CA Assoc. of Veteran Service Agencies; National Alliance on Mental Illness—CA **Opponents:** Mental Health America of California; Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association; CalVoices

WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS

YES A YES vote on this measure means: Counties would need to change some of the mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment services provided currently to focus more on housing and personalized support services. The state could borrow up to \$6.4 billion to build (1) more places where people could get mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment and (2) more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges.

NO A NO vote on this measure means: Counties would not need to change the mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment services provided currently. The state could not borrow up to \$6.4 billion to build more places where people could get mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment and more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges.

ARGUMENTS

PRO Proposition 1 addresses California's urgent crisis of homelessness, mental health and addiction, authorizing \$6.4 billion in bonds and directing billions more annually to expand mental health and addiction services, build permanent supportive housing and help homeless veterans. Vote YES on Proposition 1. Learn more at TreatmentNotTents.com.

CON Prop. 1 is huge, expensive and destructive. It costs more than \$10 billion, but isn't a "solution" to homelessness. Now's a BAD TIME for new bonds and debt. Prop. 1 CUTS funds for mental health programs that are working. Mental health advocates and taxpayer groups oppose it. Vote NO!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR Yes on Prop. 1—Governor Newsom's Ballot Measure Committee
TreatmentNotTents.com

AGAINST Hope Collins
Californians Against Proposition 1
7101 Amoloc Lane
Lotus, CA 95651
(530) 298-7995
info@prop1no.com
prop1no.com

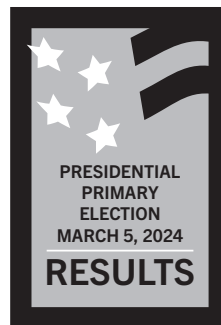
Election Day Information

Polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. If you are in line before 8:00 p.m., you can still vote.

Find Your Polling Place or a Vote Center

Polling places and vote centers are established by county elections officials. Look for your polling place address or vote center locations in the county Voter Information Guide that you receive in the mail a few weeks before Election Day.

You may also visit the Secretary of State's website at vote.ca.gov or call the toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).



Election results for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election are available after the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on the California Secretary of State's Election Results website at electionresults.sos.ca.gov.

Results will begin to be posted at 8:00 p.m. and will be updated throughout Election Night. In the days afterwards, the results will be updated at 5:00 p.m. each day throughout the canvass as counties count the remaining ballots.

The official certified results of the election will be posted by April 12, 2024, at sos.ca.gov/elections.

Check Your Voter Status Online

Visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Status page at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to check your voter status, find your polling place or a vote center, and much more.

To check your voter status, you will need to enter your first name, last name, date of birth, and your California driver's license or California identification card number, or the last four digits of your social security number.

Visit voterstatus.sos.ca.gov for important voter details.





HOW TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

Registered to Vote with No Party Preference/No Party?

As a voter who declined to provide a political party preference, or you registered with an unknown or unqualified political party, you are considered a “No Party Preference” (NPP) voter, and **your primary election ballot will not have presidential candidates on it.**

If you want to vote for U.S. President, you must request a ballot with presidential candidates from one of the following parties:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Libertarian Party

Contact your county elections office to request a No Party Preference Cross-over Ballot Notice and Application by phone, email, or fax. To contact your local county elections office, visit sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices.

If you want to vote for the Green, Peace and Freedom, or Republican parties’ presidential candidates, you must re-register with that specific party.

To re-register to vote online, go to registertovote.ca.gov. If you need to re-register after February 20, 2024, you can do so in person at a polling place, any vote center, or your county elections office.

Registered to Vote with a Qualified Political Party?

If you registered with any of the following qualified political parties, you can only vote for that party’s presidential candidates:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Green Party
- Libertarian Party
- Peace and Freedom Party
- Republican Party

If you want to vote for another party’s presidential candidate, you must re-register with that specific party.

You can re-register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov. If you need to re-register after February 20, 2024, you can do so in person at a polling place, any vote center, or your county elections office.

**For more information on this process,
visit howtovoteforpresident.sos.ca.gov.**

Look for Trusted Sources of Election Information

The Secretary of State is committed to ensuring elections are free, fair, safe, secure, accurate, and accessible. Misinformation, intentional or otherwise, continues to confuse voters and create distrust in the electoral process. California has one of the most extensive voting system testing and certification programs in the nation.

Our best defense against rumors and misinformation is you! False election information is more common than you think. If a claim seems outrageous or designed to upset you, it may not be true.

The best sources for trusted election information are your local and state elections officials. To find out more about election facts or common rumors being spread, visit catrustedinformation.sos.ca.gov.

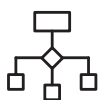
Report misinformation to votesure@sos.ca.gov.

California Election Security Safeguards



Secure Technology

- County voting systems are not connected to the internet
- Strong security techniques are practiced regularly
- Routine threat monitoring and vulnerability scanning in collaboration with our state and federal partners
- Rigorous voting system testing and certification performed by the California Secretary of State
- Only authorized elections staff have access to systems relevant to their role



Secure Processes

- VoteCal is a centralized statewide voter registration database. VoteCal checks against official records and is regularly updated
- Ballots and election technology must adhere to strict chain-of-custody procedures
- Paper ballots for all registered voters are available
- Post-election audits are performed by elections officials
- Signatures are verified on all vote-by-mail ballot envelopes
- Emergency planning for fire, flood, cyber incidents, and more



Secure Facilities and People

- Physical access control and security of locations
- Election processes open to observation during specific hours of operation
- Security and accessibility assessments completed for all locations
- Phishing and cybersecurity training provided for all staff
- Ballot drop boxes are secured and monitored



Don't Delay, Vote Today!

All California voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot with a prepaid postage return envelope for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election. County elections officials will begin sending vote-by-mail ballots to California voters no later than February 5, 2024.

The vote-by-mail ballot voting period begins as soon as ballots are in the mail. Make your voice heard early! Return your vote-by-mail ballot during the voting period of February 5 through the close of polls on March 5.

Voting by Mail is EASY.

Democracy is counting on you! Follow these five easy steps to exercise your right to vote:

Complete it.

Mark your choices on your vote-by-mail ballot.

Seal it.

Secure your ballot inside the vote-by-mail ballot return envelope you received from your county elections office.

Sign it.

Sign the outside of your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope.

Make sure your signature matches the one on your CA driver's license/state ID, or the one you provided when registering to vote. Your county elections office will compare them before they count your ballot.

Return it.

By drop box—Drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at a secure official drop box in your county at any time between February 6 through the close of polls on March 5.

By mail—Make sure your vote-by-mail ballot return envelope is postmarked by March 5. No stamp needed!

In person—Drop your completed vote-by-mail ballot off at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on March 5. Voting locations will be available in all counties before Election Day. Voting locations offer voter registration, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, and language assistance.

Track it.

Sign up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to receive updates on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text message (SMS), email, or voice call.



All voters can now get critical updates on their ballots through California's official "Where's My Ballot?" tracking tool. **Signing up takes less than three minutes!**

What you'll be able to track:



You can select to receive notifications on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), email, or voice call, including alerts if there are any issues with your ballot and instructions for how to correct them to make sure your vote is counted.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to track your ballot every step of the way!

You can also copy this URL into your browser: wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov



More Days, More Ways to Vote

with the California Voter's Choice Act



Vote in person up to 10 days prior to Election Day

- Alameda
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Humboldt
- Kings
- Los Angeles
- Madera
- Marin
- Mariposa
- Merced
- Napa
- Nevada
- Orange
- Placer
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Benito
- San Diego
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Sonoma
- Stanislaus
- Tuolumne
- Ventura
- Yolo

In California, every active registered voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail before every election. Check your voter registration status to ensure you receive your ballot.

Vote by mail:

Return your ballot by mail **as soon as you receive it.**

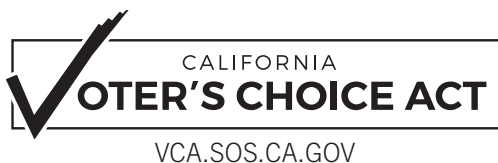
Use a drop box:

Return your ballot to a secure drop off location in any county **up to 28 days before the election.**

Vote center:

- Vote in person anywhere in the county **up to 10 days before the election.**
- Register to vote and vote same day.
- Drop off your ballot.

Visit RegisterToVote.ca.gov or call (800) 345-VOTE (8683) to learn more.



Want to skip the line and vote early?
Scan the QR Code to learn more!



PROPOSITION **1** **AUTHORIZES \$6.38 BILLION IN BONDS TO BUILD MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES; PROVIDES HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.**

OFFICIAL TITLE AND SUMMARY

PREPARED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The text of this measure can be found on page 37 and the Secretary of State's website at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

- Authorizes \$6.38 billion in state general obligation bonds for mental health treatment facilities (\$4.4 billion) and supportive housing for homeless veterans and homeless individuals with behavioral health challenges (\$2 billion).
- Amends Mental Health Services Act to:
 - Allow funding to be used to treat substance use disorders (instead of only mental health disorders);
 - Re-allocate funding for full-service treatment programs, other behavioral health services (e.g., early intervention), and housing programs;
 - Require annual audits of programs.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S ESTIMATE OF NET STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT:

- Shift roughly \$140 million annually of existing tax revenue for mental health, drug, and alcohol treatment from counties to the state.
- Increased state costs to repay bonds of about \$310 million annually for 30 years. These bond funds would be used to build (1) more places where people can get mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment and (2) more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges.

State Bond Cost Estimate

Amount borrowed	\$6.4 billion
Average repayment cost	\$310 million per year over 30 years
Source of repayment	General tax revenue

**FINAL VOTES CAST BY THE LEGISLATURE ON AB 531 (PROPOSITION 1)
(CHAPTER 789, STATUTES OF 2023)**

Senate:	Ayes 35	Noes 2
Assembly:	Ayes 66	Noes 8

**FINAL VOTES CAST BY THE LEGISLATURE ON SB 326 (PROPOSITION 1)
(CHAPTER 790, STATUTES OF 2023)**

Senate:	Ayes 40	Noes 0
Assembly:	Ayes 68	Noes 7

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

OVERVIEW

Proposition 1 has two major components related to providing mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment to people and addressing homelessness. The proposition:

- Changes the Mental Health Services Act that was passed by voters in 2004, with a focus on how the money from the act can be used.
- Approves a \$6.4 billion bond to build (1) more places for mental health care and drug

or alcohol treatment and (2) more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

BACKGROUND

Counties Provide Mental Health Care and Drug or Alcohol Treatment to Certain People. Counties receive money to provide mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment. Counties generally

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED

provide these services to people with low incomes and severe mental illnesses.

A Tax on People With High Incomes Helps to Pay for County Mental Health Services. Counties receive roughly \$10 billion to \$13 billion per year in statewide taxes and federal money to provide mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment. Roughly one-third of the money counties receive to provide mental health services comes from a tax on people with high incomes. This tax has been collected since 2005, after California voters approved Proposition 63, also known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The act taxes people with incomes over \$1 million per year and requires that the money collected from the tax be used for mental health services. The tax typically raises between \$2 billion and \$3.5 billion each year (annually).

Under MHSA, Counties Have Some Choices About How to Provide Services. Nearly all the money from the tax—at least 95 percent—goes directly to counties, which use it for mental health services. The rest of the money goes to the state to support mental health programs. Counties can only spend the MHSA money on certain types of services, but have flexibility in how to provide those services. The services include treatment for people with mental illness and prevention programs for people who may develop a mental illness. While counties can spend MHSA money on treatment for drugs and alcohol, the people receiving treatment must also have a mental illness.

PROPOSAL

No Changes to Tax. Proposition 1 does not change the tax on people with incomes over \$1 million per year.

Figure 1

Use of MHSA Tax Money

	Current Law	Proposition 1
State programs	5% or less	10% or less
County programs	95% or more	90% or more

MHSA = Mental Health Services Act.

State Gets Larger Share of Tax. As shown in Figure 1, Proposition 1 increases the share of the MHSA tax that the state gets for mental health programs. The proposition also requires the state to spend a dedicated amount of its MHSA money on increasing the number of mental health care workers and preventing mental illness and drug or alcohol addiction across communities. Because the state would receive a larger share of the tax, counties would receive a somewhat smaller share.

Changes to How Counties Provide Services. Proposition 1 requires that counties spend more of their MHSA money on housing and personalized support services like employment assistance and education. While counties currently can use MHSA money to pay for these types of services, they are not required under MHSA to spend a particular amount on them now. Counties would continue to provide other mental health services under the proposition, but less MHSA money would be available to them for these other mental health services. Examples of other mental health services include treatment, responding to people in a mental health crisis, and outreach to people who may need mental health care or drug or alcohol treatment. How much counties would spend on different services would depend on future decisions by the counties and the state. The proposition also allows counties to use MHSA money on treatment for drugs and alcohol for people without a mental illness.

\$6.4 BILLION BOND

BACKGROUND

California Does Not Have Enough Places Where People Can Get Mental Health Care and Drug or Alcohol Treatment. People receive mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment in different types of places based in part on their need. California does not have enough places where people can get this care and treatment. This shortage means that many people wait for care or do not receive care at the right type of place. To address the shortage, places for treatment

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED

in California would need to be able to see over 10,000 more people at any one time than is possible today.

State Program Provides Money to Build More Places for Mental Health Care and Drug or Alcohol Treatment. The state budget recently included about \$2 billion to build more places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment. The program gives grants to local governments, tribes, nonprofits, and companies. About 75 percent of this grant funding has been awarded so far. Many of these places are now being built. Examples of the types of places that are being built by this program include: (1) places where people can stay for a short amount of time in order to receive treatment for drugs or alcohol; (2) places where people can stay while they transition from intensive mental health care to lower levels of care; and (3) places where people receive the most intensive treatment and care, such as psychiatric hospitals. This program will address less than half of the statewide shortage of places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment. Currently, no additional state funds for this purpose are planned.

Many People in California Experience Homelessness. The high cost of housing in California means many people cannot afford housing. As of January 2022, there were 171,500 people who were experiencing homelessness in California. Of this total, 10,400 were veterans.

State Program Provides Money to Turn Hotels, Motels, and Other Buildings Into Housing. The state has many programs that build housing for Californians experiencing homelessness or those with low incomes. One such state program gives grants to local governments and tribes for various purposes, including to turn hotels, motels, and other buildings into housing and construct new housing. Recent state budgets have given \$3.7 billion to this program.

PROPOSAL

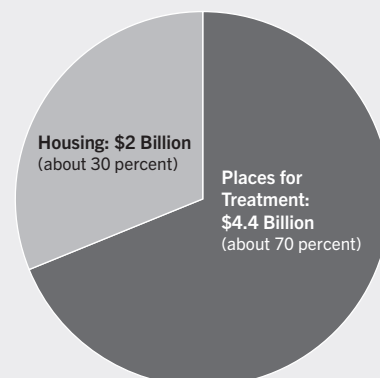
New Bonds to Build More Places for Mental Health and Drug or Alcohol Treatment and More Housing. Proposition 1 allows the state to sell \$6.4 billion in new bonds. Bonds are a way that the state borrows money and then repays the money plus interest over time. For more information about bonds, see “Overview of State Bond Debt” later in this guide.

Use of Funds. Figure 2 shows how the bond funding would be used.

- **Places for Mental Health Care and Drug or Alcohol Treatment.** Proposition 1 would give up to \$4.4 billion to the state program that builds more places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment. The types of places that would be built with bond funds would depend on future decisions by the state. Proposition 1 would require at least \$1.5 billion of the \$4.4 billion to go to local governments and tribes.
- **Housing.** Proposition 1 would give \$2 billion to the state program that gives money to local governments to turn hotels, motels, and other buildings into housing and construct new housing. Local governments would get either

Figure 2

Proposed Uses of \$6.4 Billion in Bond Funds



LAO

ANALYSIS BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

CONTINUED

grants or loans from the state. The housing added by the measure would be for people who are (1) experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless and (2) have mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges. Just over half of the \$2 billion would be set aside for veterans.

FISCAL EFFECTS

MHSA

More MHSA Money to the State, Less to Counties.

There would be no changes to the MHSA tax, but the money would be used differently. The proposition shifts roughly \$140 million annually of MHSA money from the counties to the state. This amount would be higher or lower depending on the total amount of MHSA money collected annually.

Possible Increased Costs to Counties to Continue Current Programs.

Counties would provide more housing and personalized support services, but would have less MHSA money for other mental health services. This means counties may need to use other county, state, or federal money to keep current service levels.

BOND

Increased State Costs of \$310 Million Annually for 30 Years to Repay the Bond.

We estimate the cost to repay the bond would be about **\$310 million annually over a 30-year period.** Payments would be made from the state General Fund. (The General Fund is the account the state uses to pay for most public services, including education, health care, and prisons.) This would be less than one-half of 1 percent of state General Fund revenue. Since the state has to pay interest on the money it borrows, the total cost of the bond

would be about 10 percent more expensive than if the state paid in cash.

Funding for Local Governments. Local governments and tribes would receive grants and loans funded by the bond to build more places for mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment and more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges. These governments would have to pay for some of the costs to operate these places and housing.

How Would the Bond Impact the Shortage of Places for Mental Health and Drug or Alcohol Treatment? The state government estimates that the bond would build places for 6,800 people to receive mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment at any one time. While the measure would build a lot of new treatment places, there may still be some need for new places after the bond funds are spent.

How Would the Bond Impact Homelessness? The state government estimates the bond would build up to 4,350 housing units, with 2,350 set aside for veterans. The bond would provide housing to over 20 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness. The number of housing units built by the bond would reduce statewide homelessness by only a small amount.

Visit sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying/cal-access-resources/measure-contributions/2024-ballot-measure-contribution-totals for a list of committees primarily formed to support or oppose this measure.

Visit fppc.ca.gov/transparency/top-contributors.html to access the committee's top 10 contributors.

★ ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 1 ★

Vote YES on Proposition 1: Treatment, Not Tents.

Why does California face a humanitarian crisis of homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse?

Our mental health system is broken.

It goes back to the closure of the state’s mental health hospitals in the 1960’s and 70’s when politicians dumped tens of thousands of patients into our communities and failed to provide alternative services to fill the gap.

Mental health treatment has been underfunded for decades, and the COVID pandemic only made things worse. Proposition 1 will finally change that.

Proposition 1 combines compassion and common sense.

Proposition 1 authorizes \$6.4 billion in bonds and directs billions more annually to finally fix our broken mental health system and move people permanently off the streets, out of tents and into treatment.

- EXPANDS COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES: Prop. 1 will expand community-based mental health and addiction services across the state and serve tens of thousands of Californians each year.
- BUILDS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: The initiative will create supportive housing settings where over 11,000 Californians with the severest mental health needs can live, recover, stabilize and thrive.
- PROVIDES TREATMENT OVER INCARCERATION: One in three California prisoners has a diagnosed mental illness. Today, we spend over \$100,000 per incarcerated person. Research shows it’s costly and counterproductive. Prop. 1 will prioritize treatment not punishment for the mentally ill.
- HELPS HOMELESS VETERANS: It is disgraceful that over 10,000 California veterans, many suffering from PTSD, are homeless and on the streets. Prop. 1 will provide \$1 billion to serve veterans experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues.

• ADDRESSES SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS: Currently, those with serious mental health issues can wait six months or longer just for an introductory appointment. Prop. 1 will help fund additional professionals so that people with mental health needs can get help in real time.

• REQUIRES STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY: Democrats and Republicans support Prop. 1 because it addresses mental health and homelessness without raising taxes. And Prop. 1 has strict accountability measures, including mandatory audits, to ensure that funds are spent as promised.

California has the most acute homelessness epidemic in the nation. Meanwhile, nearly 1 in 7 California adults experiences a mental illness.

This is a crisis only Californians can solve.

Join first responders, mental health professionals, California veterans, and organizations supporting veterans like the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies.

By voting YES on Proposition 1, we can finally establish a modernized mental health system that will serve the needs of all our residents, get our most vulnerable off the streets and offer every Californian a genuine shot at a brighter future.

Choose compassion and common sense.

Choose treatment over tents.

Vote YES on Proposition 1.

Learn more at: treatmentnottents.com

Brian K. Rice, President
California Professional Firefighters

James Espinoza, MS, President
The Veteran Mentor Project

Jessica Cruz, MPA/HS, Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness—California

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 1 ★

We work directly with people struggling with mental health. We urge you to vote “no” because Proposition 1 will cause EXTREME DAMAGE to existing mental healthcare programs.

Supporters don’t tell you WHERE Prop. 1 gets money to operate its programs, so we must: *Prop. 1 CUTS existing county-level mental health services!*

Prop. 1 DIVERTS one-third of existing funding from the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), allows many kinds of services to compete with mental healthcare for the remaining money, and sticks the state in charge of local programs and decisions.

The results will be DEVASTATING at the local level.

Cutting programs.

Firing healthcare workers.

Ending services for thousands of people.

Current MHSA programs are a LIFELINE for underserved communities and people without insurance. Many of these services WON’T SURVIVE Prop. 1’s cuts.

Prop. 1’s pricey bonds are a FALSE PROMISE on homelessness. *Two-thirds* of the money is for time-limited and potentially “locked” treatment beds, NOT PERMANENT HOUSING.

When people leave treatment, they’ll be BACK ON THE STREETS, still disabled, unable to work, again without housing.

Prop. 1 also fuels a DANGEROUS trend toward forced treatment. Studies show it’s ineffective and is associated with higher suicide risks. DISTURBINGLY, Gov. Newsom unveiled his Prop. 1 at L.A. County General Hospital, which FORCIBLY RESTRAINS patients at a rate 50 times the national average!

Prop. 1 doesn’t “fix” a broken system, it BREAKS something that’s WORKING: the MHSA.

DON’T RAID current mental health programs to pay for Prop. 1. Please vote NO!

Heidi Strunk, CEO
Mental Health America of California

Andrea Wagner, Executive Director
California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations

Paul Simmons, Executive Director
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of California

★ ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 1 ★

Governor Newsom's Proposition 1 is a nightmare for taxpayers, cities and counties, and people with mental illness.

Prop. 1 is so huge, expensive, and destructive, it's already attracted a BIPARTISAN coalition of opponents.

Vote NO because:

PROP. 1 WILL COST TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$10 BILLION. Prop. 1 puts taxpayers on the hook for DECADES to pay back new bonds. This isn't "free money!" It's credit card borrowing from Wall Street. According to Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, bonds are the most expensive and inefficient way to pay for a government program. And with interest rates today, it's a VERY BAD TIME to be taking on new bond debt, adding at least 60% IN INTEREST COSTS, costing taxpayers an estimated \$10.58–\$12.45 billion. This will take decades to pay back. The State should have prioritized spending through the budget process when we had a \$100 billion state budget surplus. Our children will be paying our debts, and their streets won't be any cleaner for it.

PROP. 1 ISN'T A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS. The State has failed at reducing California's homelessness problem. Sacramento has already thrown \$20 billion at the crisis in the last five years without making significant progress. The number of unhoused people increased 6% last year. The State Auditor's Office is still trying to find where the billions went. We will indeed have more tents in our neighborhoods and fewer people in treatment if Prop. 1 passes.

If the state wants a grand solution for homelessness, it should attack the heart of the problem through the regular budget process—not expensive bond measures that RAISE TAXPAYER COSTS LONG-TERM. Californians are already some of the most over-taxed people in the country.

PROP. 1 CUTS SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL. In

2004, the voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which dedicated funds for community-based mental health services. Prop. 1 STEALS AWAY almost 1/3 of that guaranteed annual funding from the "millionaire's tax" leaving already underfunded programs to fight for the remaining money. That's why CalVoices, California's oldest mental health advocacy agency, opposes it.

PROP. 1 MANDATES STATE CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONTROL, WITH REDUCED OVERSIGHT. California's 58 urban and rural counties all have different needs. Prop. 1 brings a one-size-fits-all program and puts a huge, unaccountable state agency in charge. The voter-approved MHSA was locally based, allowing counties to set their own priorities, with mandatory, independent oversight and accountability. Under Prop. 1, oversight and accountability are watered down, instead giving authority to the governor and his bureaucrats. This threatens effective programs that counties already offer.

Leave it to Sacramento to find a way to INCREASE COSTS, CUT VITAL PROGRAMS, and offer only UNPROVEN IDEAS! Far from being a magic solution, Prop. 1 is a multibillion dollar disaster that will hurt the very people it claims to help. And who's left holding the bag when Prop. 1 fails? The taxpayers, once again.

THIS IS THE WRONG APPROACH. VOTE NO ON PROP. 1.

Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones

Assemblymember Diane B. Dixon

Heidi Strunk, CEO

Mental Health America of California

★ REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 1 ★

Opponents of Proposition 1 want to ignore the crisis of homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse plaguing communities across California.

Their position is isolated and extreme.

Proposition 1 overwhelmingly passed the California Assembly and Senate with support from Democrats and Republicans because it's based on *compassion and common sense*.

- *Proposition 1 doesn't raise taxes.* Leading business organizations, including California Retailers Association, support Proposition 1 because it addresses the crisis for the long term without raising taxes.
- *Proposition 1 makes better use of existing money.* First responders and mental health experts support Proposition 1 because it provides badly needed reforms to the Mental Health Services Act by prioritizing housing solutions that get people off the streets and into care.
- *Proposition 1 strengthens local control.* Bi-partisan mayors across the state support Proposition 1 because it gives

local communities desperately needed mental health and addiction treatment services to manage the crisis on the ground.

- *Proposition 1 has tough guarantees.* Veterans support Proposition 1 because it was written with strict accountability measures, including mandatory audits, to ensure that funds are spent as voters intend.

We can finally fix our broken mental health system and put tens of thousands of Californians on a path to greater health and dignity.

Vote YES on Proposition 1: Treatment, Not Tents.

Learn more at: treatmentnottents.com

Stephen Peck, Director

California Association of Veteran Service Agencies

Jennifer Barrera, CEO

California Chamber of Commerce

Alan W. Barcelona, Chair

Orange County Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (OC Cops)

OVERVIEW OF STATE BOND DEBT

PREPARED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

This section describes the state's bond debt. It also discusses how the bond measure on the ballot, if approved by voters, would affect state costs to repay bonds.

State Bonds and Their Costs

What Are Bonds? Bonds are a way that governments borrow money. The state government uses bonds primarily to pay for infrastructure projects such as bridges, dams, prisons, parks, schools, and office buildings. The state sells bonds to investors to receive up-front funding for these projects and then must repay the investors over a period of time, typically a couple of decades. This is very similar to the way a family pays off a mortgage on their home.

What Are the Costs of Bond Financing? The state's total cost for a project is more if it pays for it with bonds than if it pays with cash. This is because it has to pay interest on the bonds. The amount of additional cost depends on the interest rate and how long it takes to repay the bonds. For example, if the state uses a 20-year bond with a 4 percent interest rate to pay for a project, the total cost is about 10 percent more expensive than paying in cash.

Most Bonds Must Be Approved by Voters. The California Constitution requires that most new bonds be approved by voters. These bonds usually are repaid from the state General Fund. (The General Fund is the account the state uses to pay for most public services, including education, health care, and prisons.)

Bonds and State Spending

Current Amount of Bond Debt. The state currently is repaying about \$80 billion of bonds. In addition, the voters and the Legislature previously have approved about \$30 billion of bonds that have not yet been sold. Most of these bonds are expected to be sold in the next several years. The state currently is paying about \$6 billion per year from the General Fund to repay bonds. The state will continue to pay a similar amount over the next few years. This is about 3 percent of the state's annual General Fund revenue, which is lower than the historical average of about 4 percent.

This Election's Impact on Debt Payments. There is one bond measure on this ballot—Proposition 1. If approved by voters, this measure would allow the state to borrow an additional \$6.4 billion. The money would be used to build (1) more places for mental health and drug or alcohol treatment and (2) more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges. We estimate the cost to repay this new bond would be about \$310 million each year for 30 years, or less than one-half of 1 percent of annual General Fund revenue.

Elections in California

The Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act requires that all candidates for a voter-nominated office be listed on the same ballot. Previously known as partisan offices, voter-nominated offices include state legislative offices and United States congressional offices.

In both the open primary and general elections, you can vote for any candidate regardless of what party preference you indicated on your voter registration form. In the primary election, the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party preference—move on to the general election. If a candidate receives a majority of the vote (at least 50 percent + 1), a general election still must be held.

California's open primary system does not apply to candidates running for United States President, county central committee, or local offices.

Write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices may still run in the primary election. However, a write-in candidate may only move on to the general election if the candidate is one of the top two vote-getters in the primary election. Additionally, there is no independent nomination process for a general election.

California law requires the following information to be printed in this guide.

Party-Nominated/Partisan Offices

Political parties may formally nominate candidates for party-nominated/partisan offices at the primary election. A nominated candidate will represent that party as its official candidate for the specific office at the general election and the ballot will reflect an official designation. The top vote-getter for each party at the primary election moves on to the general election. Parties also elect officers of county central committees at the primary election.

A voter can only vote in the primary election of the political party he or she has disclosed a preference for upon registering to vote. However, a political party may allow a person who has declined to disclose a party preference to vote in that party's primary election.

Voter-Nominated Offices

Political parties are not entitled to formally nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices at the primary election. A candidate nominated for a voter-nominated office at the primary election is the nominee of the people and not the official nominee of any party at the general election. A candidate for nomination to a voter-nominated office shall have his or her qualified party preference, or lack of qualified party preference, stated on the ballot, but the party preference designation is selected solely by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not mean the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party designated, or that there is an affiliation between the party and candidate, and no candidate nominated by the voters shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party. In the county voter information guide, parties may list the candidates for voter-nominated offices who have received the party's official endorsement.

Any voter may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated office, if they meet the other qualifications required to vote for that office. The top two vote-getters at the primary election move on to the general election for the voter-nominated office even if both candidates have specified the same party preference designation. No party is entitled to have a candidate with its party preference designation move on to the general election unless the candidate is one of the two highest vote-getters at the primary election.

Nonpartisan Offices

Political parties are not entitled to nominate candidates for nonpartisan offices at the primary election, and a candidate at the primary election is not the official nominee of any party for the specific office at the general election. A candidate for nomination to a nonpartisan office may not designate his or her party preference, or lack of party preference, on the ballot. The top two vote-getters at the primary election move on to the general election for the nonpartisan office.

POLITICAL PARTY STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

★ REPUBLICAN PARTY ★

California should be a place that all are proud to call home. We deserve leaders who will fight every day to make this the best state in the nation to live, work and raise a family.

The party in power has launched our state down a destructive path. A homeless crisis is visible across California. Failing schools are leaving children behind. Surging crime is threatening Californians' safety. The cost of living on everything from food to gas and housing is so outrageous that longtime residents continue to flee the state in droves.

The radical, regressive policies of today's leadership have been a failure. It's time to fix our once golden state.

California Republican Party
1001 K. Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 448-9496
E-mail: info@cagop.org

The California Republican Party and our candidates believe you deserve a safer, more affordable state, with schools that prepare children to get ahead. If you believe this too, join the California Comeback and vote Republican.

We are fighting to make our state a place where the California Dream is attainable, and where both you and future generations can thrive. Together, we can push our state to reach its full potential.

The California Republican Party is a place where all are welcome. To learn more and get involved, visit www.CAGOP.org.

Website: www.cagop.org
Twitter/X: @CAGOP
Facebook: facebook.com/CARepublicanParty
Instagram: @ca_gop

★ GREEN PARTY ★

It's time to act! California and the world are in crisis.

Join the Green Party in building a socially and racially just, ecologically sustainable, democratic, peaceful EcoSocialist society that exists in harmony with nature.

Greens are the ONLY progressive national grassroots political party rejecting corporate funding. Over 350 California Greens have served in office.

Registering Green and voting Green means:

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS: •Living wages, unions, workers' rights •Universal healthcare, free higher education, affordable housing, food security •Tax the super-rich, close corporate loopholes

BOLD CLIMATE ACTION: •A Just Transition to a clean energy economy •Phase out fossil fuels •Accelerate local, publicly-owned, renewable energy, electric-powered public transportation •Protect forests and watersheds

Green Party of California
P.O. Box 485
San Francisco, CA 94104
(916) 448-3437

•Regenerative agriculture

HUMAN RIGHTS: •End all oppression based on race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, income •Protect immigrants, sanctuary and citizenship pathways •Indigenous rights and Black-Lives-Matter •Stop waging and funding wars •De-militarize our communities and our national budget •Full abortion rights •Police accountability •End prison industries, over-incarceration, death penalty •Gun control/safety

ELECTORAL REFORM: •Proportional representation, ranked choice voting •Publicly-financed elections, eliminate corporate bribes

Greens' vision won cannabis legalization, closed nuclear power plants, enabled public banking.

It's time for change: register, vote, volunteer, and run Green!

E-mail: gpcac@greens.org
Website: www.cagreens.org
Facebook: @cagreens
Twitter/X: @GPCA

★ DEMOCRATIC PARTY ★

California Democrats are committed to providing direct economic relief to businesses and families, protecting safe and legal abortion access, strengthening gun safety laws, fighting for marriage equality, and safeguarding our state against the national assault on Democracy and voting rights.

Democratic leadership continues to move our country forward—from setting up a historic vaccination program to getting people back to work, the Biden-Harris administration has grown the economy faster than in decades and added 6.4 million jobs within a year.

In California, Democrats have implemented the biggest economic recovery package in history—providing direct relief

Rusty Hicks, Chair
California Democratic Party
1830 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

payments to families, confronting the housing affordability crisis and leading the nation on climate actions. California's state budget puts money back into the pockets of families, invests in public schools, protects reproductive rights, enacts smart gun safety laws, and supports programs that provide good paying jobs to ensure that every person has an opportunity to earn a living wage.

California Democrats are delivering on the promise of the California Dream for ALL—uniting ALL people instead of pulling communities apart. As the dreamers and doers, we invite you to join us to continue investing in our future together.

(916) 442-5707
Website: www.cadem.org
Facebook: facebook.com/cadems
Twitter/X: @CA_Dem

POLITICAL PARTY STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

★ PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY ★

The Peace and Freedom Party is a working-class party in a country run by and for the wealthy and their corporations. We should not have to sacrifice our health, our livelihoods, and our planet for billionaires' profits. Tax the rich, whose wealth is created by workers, to pay for people's needs.

Our Goals:

- Social justice & equality: Free universal health care for all. •Free education for everyone, preschool through university. •Full immigrant rights; no deportations. •End homelessness, housing for all. •Jobs or Income; labor rights for all. •End racism, LGBTQ and women's oppression, and all discrimination. •Comprehensive services for disabled people.
- Environment: •Reverse Climate change. •Restore and protect the environment.

Peace and Freedom Party
P.O. Box 24764
Oakland, CA 94623

- Justice reform: •Abolish the death penalty. •Stop police abuse and prison torture.
- Peace: •No U.S. wars, sanctions, or coups. •No foreign bases.
- Democracy: •Repeal California's "top two" election law. •Implement proportional representation.

While capitalism puts the wealthy first, we will continue to suffer war, police brutality, low wages, unsafe workplaces, and pollution. We advocate socialism: the ownership and democratic control of the economy by the people. By taking control of our industries and natural resources, we can make progress for the common good.

Register Peace and Freedom Party!

(510) 465-9414
E-mail: info@peaceandfreedom.org
Website: www.peaceandfreedom.org

★ AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY ★

The American Independent Party is the party of ordered liberty in a nation under God. We are all refugees from the Republican or Democrat parties. We believe the Constitution is the contract America has with itself. Its willful distortion led to the violation of our 10th Amendment guaranteed right to limited government—which inevitably requires oppressive taxation. Its faithful application will lift that burden.

Freed from the lawless oppression of Liberal rule, we may then compassionately and justly use our energy and ingenuity to provide for ourselves and our families. We will then establish truly free and responsible enterprise and reassert the basic human right to property.

American Independent Party of California
2900 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806

We believe in protecting all human life however weak, defenseless, or disheartened; endorse the family as the essential bulwark of liberty, compassion, responsibility, and industry; and declare the family's right and responsibility to nurture, discipline and educate our children.

We assert the absolute, concurrent Second Amendment guaranteed individual right to self-defense coupled with a strong common defense—a common defense which requires a national sovereignty not damaged by imprudent treaties.

We oppose all illegal immigration. We support secure borders and immigration policies, inviting the best of the world to join us in freedom.

(714) 397-3262
E-mail: robertjosephwalters@gmail.com
Website: www.aipca.org

★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY ★

The Libertarian Party holds that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives and to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of other individuals to do the same.

Contrary to all other political parties, we deny the "right" of any government to control or dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Instead, we hold that, where governments exist, they must never violate the rights of any individual, namely the right to life, liberty, and property.

We oppose all interference by government in the areas of

Adrian F. Malagon, Chair
Libertarian Party of California
428 J Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 446-1776

voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should never be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. We believe that respect for individual rights is an essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

The Libertarian Party fights against corrupt politicians who habitually violate our fundamental rights through unapologetic tyranny. Help us restore American freedom!

Vote Libertarian, the Party of Principle!

E-mail: office@ca.lp.org
Website: ca.lp.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/LPCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/LPCalifornia)
Twitter/X: [@LPofCA](https://twitter.com/LPofCA)
Instagram: [@lpofcal](https://www.instagram.com/lpofcal)

Information About Candidate Statements

This voter guide includes candidate statements from United States Senate office candidates which begin on page 21 of this guide.

United States Senate

The office of United States Senate will have TWO separate contests on the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election ballot. You may vote on both.

The first contest is the regular election for the full 6-year term of office beginning on January 3, 2025 (full term).

The second contest is a special vacancy election, since the current officeholder is temporarily filling a vacancy, for the remainder of the term ending on January 3, 2025 (partial/unexpired term).

United States Senate candidates can buy space for their candidate statement in this voter guide. Some candidates, however, choose not to buy space for a statement.

For the final certified list of candidates, which was due after this guide was published, go to vote.ca.gov.

U.S. Senate (Full Term)

Sharleta Bassett	Republican	Christina Pascucci	Democratic
James Bradley	Republican	David Peterson	Democratic
Eric Early	Republican	Douglas H. Pierce	Democratic
Steve Garvey	Republican	Katie Porter	Democratic
Denice Gary-Pandol	Republican	Perry Pound	Democratic
Laura Garza	No Qualified Party Preference	Raji Rab	Democratic
Sepi Gilani	Democratic	Jonathan Reiss	Republican
Don J. Grundmann	No Qualified Party Preference	John Rose	Democratic
		Mark Ruzon	No Qualified Party Preference
Forrest Jones	American Independent	Adam B. Schiff	Democratic
Harmesh Kumar	Democratic	Stefan Simchowitz	Republican
Barbara Lee	Democratic	Major Singh	No Party Preference
Sarah Sun Liew	Republican	Joe Sosinski	No Qualified Party Preference
Gail Lightfoot	Libertarian		Preference
James “Jim” Macauley	Republican	Martin Veprauskas	Republican

U.S. Senate (Partial/Unexpired Term)

Eric Early	Republican	Christina Pascucci	Democratic
Steve Garvey	Republican	Katie Porter	Democratic
Sepi Gilani	Democratic	Adam B. Schiff	Democratic
Barbara Lee	Democratic		

For purposes of this guide, candidates listed as having “No Party Preference” either selected that choice or did not make any selection when registering to vote. Candidates listed as having “No Qualified Party Preference” indicated a preference for a party that has not currently qualified in California when registering to vote.

United States President

United States Presidential candidate statements can be found online at voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM

- Serves as one of the two Senators who represent California’s interests in the United States Congress.
 - Proposes and votes on new national laws.
 - Votes on confirming federal judges, U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and many high-level presidential appointments to civilian and military positions.
 - Will serve the 6-year term of office beginning on January 3, 2025.
-



John Rose | DEMOCRATIC

Money is not speech and corporations are not people. As we approach America’s 250th Anniversary, politicians divide us and get millions in donations. It’s time to end the corrosive influence of money in politics and put power back into the hands of the people. Every 50 years we’ve amended the Constitution to strengthen democracy—granting voting rights to eighteen-year-olds in the 1970’s, to women in the 1920’s, and all races in the 1870’s. A new amendment stating that Constitutional rights belong to natural persons, not corporations, will restore bipartisan campaign finance reform. Your vote for John Rose supports change. Join at Rose4Us.com/VoteForChange.

422 Larkfield Ctr. #1024, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | Tel: (202) 681-5466 | E-mail: john@rose4us.com | Rose4Us.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rose4us> | Twitter/X: [@Rose4Us](https://twitter.com/Rose4Us) | Instagram: [@libertycookiesusa](https://www.instagram.com/libertycookiesusa)
Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/user/Liberty-Cookies> | TikTok: [@AmericanInfinity](https://www.tiktok.com/@AmericanInfinity)
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@democracyawareness>



Mark Ruzon | NO QUALIFIED PARTY PREFERENCE

The American Solidarity Party nominated me to bring a message of hope in troubling times: everyone has intrinsic value regardless of age or stage of life. Life is beautiful; this is non-negotiable. Families are the fundamental unit of society; we strongly support parents, economically and socially, in nurturing their children. The State should serve families’ needs, not overrule their parenting decisions. Our healthcare system should cover everyone, and coverage shouldn’t disappear if a pandemic strikes. We all require decent housing if we are to flourish. Government must address how businesses and neighborhoods can meet the needs of all Californians. We call for a wider distribution of resources and opportunities in our economy through tax policies and worker protections. We support strong communities, peaceful international relations, and religious freedom. We should welcome immigrants at legal entry points and discourage

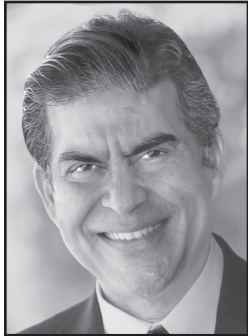
trafficking through border security. Vote Mark Ruzon for Senator. Join us: solidarity-party.org.

E-mail: mark34@cs.stanford.edu | RuzonForSenate2024.com | Facebook: Ruzon for Senate 2024

The views and opinions expressed by the candidates are their own and do not represent the views and opinions of the Secretary of State’s office. The order of the statements was determined by randomized drawing. Statements on this page were supplied by the candidates and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency. Each statement was voluntarily submitted and paid for by the candidate. Candidates who did not submit statements could otherwise be qualified to appear on the ballot.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Raji Rab | DEMOCRATIC

I am Raji Rab, accomplished Aviator, Educator, Entrepreneur. Owned, operated an airline and computer infrastructure facility. I request your precious vote for U.S. Senate to bring back to you the American dream that's been long lost. I present a fresh, space age, result-oriented leadership that is necessary and overdue. I take ethical behavior as personal, believe diversity strengthens our environment, enriches pursuit of happiness. I served lifetime on civil rights, community events, charities, toy drives, mentoring students, serving homeless, supporting schools & law enforcement programs. I offer economic innovation, housing, address homelessness, healthcare, safer cleaner environment, national security, world peace, with real change, real relief, real fast. That's my Goal.

22736 Vanowen St., Suite 105 Senate Section, West Hills, CA 91307 | E-mail: RajiRab@gmail.com
www.RajiRabForUSSenate.com | Facebook: www.facebook.com/rajirabforussenate | Twitter/X: [@RajiRabUSSenate](https://twitter.com/RajiRabUSSenate)
Instagram: www.instagram.com/rajirabforussenate | YouTube: www.youtube.com/@RajiRabChannel

The views and opinions expressed by the candidates are their own and do not represent the views and opinions of the Secretary of State's office.

*No Photograph
Submitted*

Don J. Grundmann | NO QUALIFIED PARTY PREFERENCE

Sanity campaign. Save children from LGBT attack. Psychotic transgender is steppingstone to ultimate goal of legalization of child sex as "civil right" or "sexual orientation." Ban: all chemical and physical mutilation of children; sodomite indoctrination clubs in schools; children at Drag Queen molestation shows; sodomite porn books in schools; sodomite/anal flags at schools. "Pride??" in sodomy?? BlackGenocide.org. Planned Parenthood Race Science/Eugenics = 20 million+ blacks killed = true White Supremacy. Chairman, Constitution Party of California (CPofCA.org) branch Christian Nationalist Party (CNParty.org). Fight-the-Power.org. NationalStraightPrideCoalition.org. ArrestBiden.org. TheyAreAttackingTheChildren.org. StopNumber24.org. HarrisIsAHouseNegro.org. CandleCrusade.org. IAmADomesticTerrorist.org. Nationalize Federal Reserve. Get honest/real money with interest free United States Notes = permanent prosperity for everyone, stop inflation and being slaves to FED private banking Cartel/American Mafia. ChristianMoney.org HenryMakow.com. Ae911truth.org. RichardGage911.org. Universal soul poison = hatred/resentment of parents = personal and societal breakdown. Antidote = FHU.com. Use to fight/resist Mass Formation Psychosis/Social Engineering. Free Deep State patsy Sirhan.

Reject Green New Deal/Climate Change fraud/hysteria/insanity. Restore oil industry. Promote nuclear power/fusion. StandWithRussia.org. Stop NATO/Ukraine money laundering. Repeal law raising theft level to \$950 for felony. Seal border. Deport illegals. Prosecute organizations enabling/supporting illegal immigration. AAAWP.org (AmericanAssociationForTheAdvancementOfWhitePeople.org). It's OK to be white. No inherent/automatic racism. ALL lives matter!! Natural healing is superior. Vaccines = worthless/fake/early death/autism = myocarditis = increase childhood/adult diseases. Vaxeed.org. Stop repeat of stolen 2020 election. Promote school choice. Stop teachers union attacks on students. Remember U.S.S. Liberty. NationalJusticeParty.com

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Fight-The-Power.org | CNParty.org | CPofCA.org

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Sepi Gilani | DEMOCRATIC

Save a tree! Please check the campaign website.

E-mail: GilaniUSSenate@gmail.com | www.GilaniUSSenate.org | Twitter/X: [GilaniUSSenate](https://twitter.com/GilaniUSSenate) | Instagram: [GilaniUSSenate](https://www.instagram.com/GilaniUSSenate)



Laura Garza | NO QUALIFIED PARTY PREFERENCE

Laura Garza, member of Socialist Workers Party for five decades, is a railroad worker, member of SMART/TD union. Was the SWP candidate for U.S. vice-president in 1996. She organized solidarity, walked picket lines for striking school, hotel, hospital, auto workers, screen writers, actors. Supports amnesty for undocumented workers to build unity among workers and boost union organizing. Defends Israel's right to exist, condemns October 7 pogrom organized by Hamas and Iranian government. Condemns all manifestations of Jew-hatred. Defends constitutional freedoms increasingly under government attack. Campaigns on necessity of workers taking political power out of hands of capitalists as only solution to world capitalist economic, political, and moral crisis.

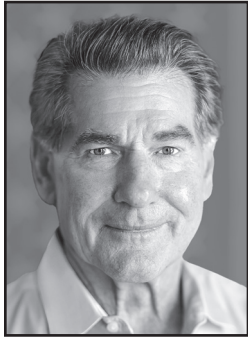
2826 S. Vermont Ave. Ste. 1, Los Angeles, CA 90007 | Tel: (323) 643-4968

E-mail: Socialistworkers2024campaign@gmail.com | Themilitant.com

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Steve Garvey | REPUBLICAN

From the moment I came to California 50 years ago, it was home. For 20 years, I played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres. When I took the field, I played for all the fans. Everyone was equal. Politics, race, sexual orientation, gender, and background didn't divide us—they brought us together. California used to be the heartbeat of America, now it's just a murmur. Today, career politicians put special interests ahead of you and your family's well-being. Instead of housing, we have out-of-control homelessness. Instead of safe neighborhoods, there's violent crime. Instead of affordability, we have record inflation, and too many Californians can't afford rent, groceries, and gas. That's not the California we love. You deserve better, your family deserves better, so let's work together. I am getting back in the game to fight for you and our state. I will bring a fresh perspective to Washington D.C. I will be your voice,

choosing common sense over tired old politics. We will reduce homelessness by addressing mental health, drug addiction, and housing affordability. We will work with law enforcement to make our neighborhoods safe, protect our schools, and hold criminals responsible. We will lower inflation so every dollar goes towards supporting your family. We will provide our children with the best education. Politicians have failed us. I won't. When Californians join together, anything is possible. I lived my dream, and you deserve to live yours. As your Senator, I will fight for your and California's future.

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Facebook: facebook.com/SteveGarvey6 | Instagram: instagram.com/SteveGarvey6



Katie Porter | DEMOCRATIC

In Washington, powerful special interests have too much control, while Congress bogs down with endless partisan battles. The result? California's real challenges, from affordable housing to the climate crisis, don't get solved. They're ignored or made even worse. After years of speaking truth to power as a consumer protection attorney, I was elected to Congress in 2018. I don't "do Congress" like lifelong politicians and Washington insiders. I'm running to be *your* U.S. Senator to unrig the system. I'm one of the few in Congress who has never taken corporate PAC money—not one penny. I'm one of just 11 out of 435 Members of Congress who refuse campaign contributions from federal lobbyists. Instead, I'm leading the fight to ban Members of Congress from trading stocks. Whether it's Big Banks, Big Pharma, or Big Oil, I won't stand for corporate special interests lying to or ripping off Californians. I call them out and hold

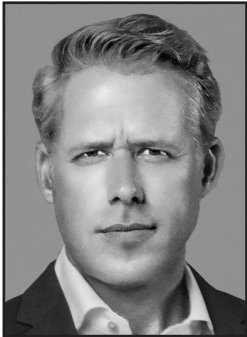
them accountable. I've been called "a watchdog," "the leadership we desperately need," and "Congress' toughest questioner." Often using a whiteboard, I've successfully exposed corporate greed and cut through bureaucratic doublespeak to deliver results. I'm a single mom of three kids attending California public schools. As Senator, my priorities will be yours: Making life in California more affordable. Reducing housing costs. Combating climate change. Protecting reproductive rights. And ensuring good, high-paying California jobs. Learn more at KatiePorter.com. Let's shake up the Senate and solve our real problems. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

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Facebook: [@KatiePorterOC](https://facebook.com/@KatiePorterOC) | Twitter/X: [@KatiePorterOC](https://twitter.com/@KatiePorterOC) | Instagram: [@KatiePorterOC](https://instagram.com/@KatiePorterOC) | TikTok: [@KatiePorterOC](https://tiktok.com/@KatiePorterOC)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Perry Pound | DEMOCRATIC

America needs a new generation of leadership, not focused on moving left or right, but forward. The challenges we face are critical, but not insurmountable. As an entrepreneur, I'm motivated to solve problems, not just talk about them. I have the courage to confront obstacles, humility to seek bipartisan solutions, and wisdom to think differently. My wife and I are raising our daughter here in the Golden State, inspired by its innovative spirit, which I'll bring to the role of US Senator. I've generated thousands of good paying jobs and directed billions of dollars into the California economy through sustainable real estate and technology investments. These projects have created homes and hope, supporting communities with essential resources. My goals aren't defined by business success alone; they're shaped by a commitment to public service. Recognized as one of California's Top 100 Public Policy Leaders, I

always put community needs first. To solve our problems, we must reform the Senate to serve the people. I'll fight to end the unconstitutional filibuster, push for term limits, and champion campaign finance reform. Then we can address the real issues: crippling inflation, homelessness, education, women's rights, the looming environmental catastrophe, lack of affordable healthcare, and the dire need for public safety. Share your concerns and priorities with me at ideas@perrypound.com. I'll fight for *our values* and ensure that your voice is heard and your needs are met. Vote Perry Pound for Senate, and together we can build a better world.

2711 Sepulveda, #519, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 | E-mail: info@perrypound.com | www.perrypound.com



David Peterson | DEMOCRATIC

David Peterson is the only candidate who works to Advance Landmark Legislation #MedicareForAll #GND Easy for incumbents. Simply Ask colleagues to CoSponsor the Bill and PUBLISH their Response-letter. & Peterson teaches American-Citizens nationwide, to repeat the process with their local Representative. Peterson mentors, supports & promotes NEW Candidates for Congress with organizations @sunrisemvmt and Independent-Democrats. Peterson works to Drain-the-Swamp by replacing Do-Nothing & Corrupt-Incumbents. The Swamp is Congress Members who take Money from donors that demand federal favors protecting; Fossil Fuels from Free-Market competition, Pharmaceutical price-gouging, Wall Street fraud, War-Profiters, Predatory health insurance firms.

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Facebook: <https://www.Facebook.com/DavidPetersonCA> | Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/petersonforca>

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM

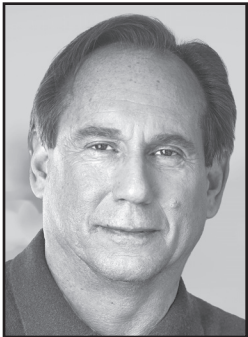


Christina Pascucci | DEMOCRATIC

As a native Californian and Emmy-award winning local journalist, I have championed the truth, exposed corruption, and held the powerful accountable. In my reporting, I have met small business owners who lost hope after losing their livelihood in the pandemic, spent time in the homeless encampments that plague our cities, and comforted countless crime victims. My investigative reporting revealed that LA officials were squandering millions of gallons of water amid the state's most severe drought, leading to changes in their policies. I have also gone undercover with the LAPD to combat human trafficking. I'm a tireless advocate for mental health awareness and unhoused families. I believe an improved youth foster system is key to fighting homelessness, as these neglected children make up half of the unhoused population.

I also fought to pass bipartisan legislation to support unhoused families. I'm a licensed pilot and member of the LA County Aviation Commission where I help oversee a multi-million dollar budget covering some of the state's largest airports. I have spent my career talking to people from all walks of life, all political stripes, and all economic backgrounds. We have discovered what we share and what we value. I believe that our country needs a fresh perspective and a bold vision to tackle the challenges we face. I would be grateful to have your support for U.S. Senate.

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TikTok: [@pascucci2024](https://www.tiktok.com/@pascucci2024)



Eric Early | REPUBLICAN

Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago? The career politicians in DC have brought us a world of hurt. I'm no career politician. I'm a husband, father and successful small business owner. I am proud to be supported by great California Republican organizations and their members, including the California Republican Assembly, numerous County Republican Central Committees and the College Republicans of America. Long ago, I worked on the "GI Joe", "Jem" and "Transformers" TV series, putting myself through law school at night. I've been a fighter my entire career, to support my family while attending night school, and then to create one of California's top law firms. California needs a fighter in DC. As your next US Senator, I will fight for you and all Forgotten Americans. We must send the military to the border to end illegal immigration and Fentanyl trafficking; stop reckless spending causing

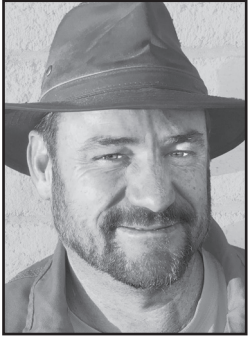
inflation; protect our 2nd Amendment rights; make America energy independent; root out the internal Marxist threat to our nation; stop schools indoctrinating children about gender fluidity and America hatred; rid women's sports of biological males; prevent violent criminals from walking free; end the Ukraine war; stand for Israel against terror; and investigate a Justice Department weaponized to destroy our former President. America is exceptional. With courage and belief in God, America will prevail in this battle of good versus evil. I respectfully ask for your vote so I can fight for you and put America first. Learn more at www.EricEarly.com.

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Facebook: [EricEarlyForCA](https://www.facebook.com/EricEarlyForCA) | Twitter/X: [@EricEarly_CA](https://twitter.com/EricEarly_CA) | Instagram: [ericearly_](https://www.instagram.com/ericearly_)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Forrest Jones | AMERICAN INDEPENDENT

Fiscal Responsibility. Personal Responsibility.

E-mail: RunForrestRun@indianagump.com | www.indianagump.com | Facebook: Indiana Gump
Twitter/X: [@TheIndianaGump](https://twitter.com/TheIndianaGump)



James Bradley | REPUBLICAN

Chief Executive Officer/US Coast Guard Veteran. James Bradley understands that Californians deserve an independent US Senator dedicated to finding real solutions for real people. James is uniquely prepared to be our full-time Senator, and not be yet another politician playing partisan games. James Bradley is a devoted father, healthcare business leader, and proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He continues to serve our fellow Americans by being a founding member of the Allied Rescue Coalition supporting private rescue efforts for US Citizens trapped in hostile countries throughout the world. James Bradley has real life background in national security. He has the hands-on experience of stopping human trafficking and illicit drugs on the high seas and continues to serve as a Flotilla Commander with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. California Parents Union endorses James Bradley. They know and trust that

he will continue to be a champion of choice for all parents and their children as California's next US Senator. James believes that a great education starts with fostering innovation with the next generation. James Bradley will work to secure a better financial future for all Americans. He will honor the sacred promises to the elderly and families alike. Voting for James Bradley will protect and help restore our inalienable rights as US Citizens. He is strongly committed to bring new respect for America's flag around the world during these troubling times. Elect a proven independent leader for California. Vote James Bradley for US Senate.

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<https://bradleysenate.com> | Twitter/X: [@jamesbradleyca](https://twitter.com/jamesbradleyca) | Instagram: [@jamesbradleyca](https://www.instagram.com/jamesbradleyca)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Sharleta Bassett | REPUBLICAN

I was elected Mayor of Biggs, California with a commanding 77% victory. I served in that community as a beacon of Faith and Family. I am a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, as well as a business leader. As your Senator, I will epitomize integrity and will support grassroots transformation at the National level.

Tel: (408) 686-9528 | E-mail: Sharleta@SharletaBassett.com



Joe Sosinski | NO QUALIFIED PARTY PREFERENCE

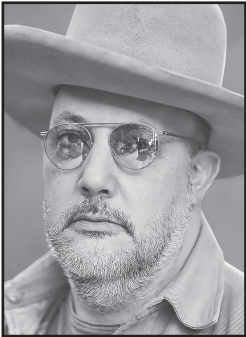
Joe Sosinski. Patent Attorney and Startup Advisor. Age 46. Native Californian. Independent, bipartisan negotiator. Commonsense solutions to the water crisis and clean, affordable electricity. Vote for real choice in November. Thank you!

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Stefan Simchowitz | REPUBLICAN

I am Stefan Simchowitz, also known as “Simco”, and I am running for United States Senate to fix the massive structural problems that plague America in order to fix crime, homelessness, healthcare and education.

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Instagram: [@simchowitzforsenate](https://www.instagram.com/simchowitzforsenate)



Major Singh | NO PARTY PREFERENCE

My father, Mukhtiar Singh, is my role model. Balanced. IIT Delhi. NCSU.

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Twitter/X: [MajorSingh4CA](https://twitter.com/MajorSingh4CA) | Instagram: [MajorSinghForCalifornia](https://www.instagram.com/MajorSinghForCalifornia)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Adam B. Schiff | DEMOCRATIC

Adam Schiff has always taken on the toughest fights to get things done for California. He's running for the U.S. Senate to continue delivering real results for Californians—making housing more affordable, lowering costs, protecting the planet, protecting abortion access, and building an economy that works for everyone, especially working families. From the courtroom to Congress, Adam took on the biggest bullies—drug companies, polluters, and drug cartels—and won. He has passed dozens of laws to lower prescription drug costs, expand public transit, create jobs, get people off the street, build the earthquake early warning system, and establish California's Patients Bill of Rights. And when our democracy was under assault by a dangerous president, Adam investigated, impeached and held him accountable for insurrection to protect our rights and freedoms, which are still under threat. Adam has a real record of results

because he's willing to work with anyone to get things done—Democrats, Republicans and Independents. That's why hundreds of California elected officials and nine statewide labor unions have endorsed Adam's campaign. They know he'll always stand up for working families, and against special interests. Adam grew up in the Bay Area, working summers in his dad's lumber yard and as a seasonal firefighter to help pay for school. After law school, he settled in Southern California. Adam has been married to Eve (yes, they've heard all the jokes) for 28 years. They have two wonderful kids, Lexi and Eli. Visit www.AdamSchiff.com to learn more.

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Gail Lightfoot | LIBERTARIAN

"Fight back, Elect Libertarians"

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Facebook: [Gail Lightfoot CA Libertarian](https://www.facebook.com/GailLightfootCA)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Sarah Sun Liew | REPUBLICAN

Vote Sarah www.sarahsenator.org

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E-mail: info@drsarahliewforcongress.com | www.sarahsenator.org | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sarahsun.liew5>



Barbara Lee | DEMOCRATIC

Californians are struggling. Now more than ever, you deserve an experienced Senator who has delivered real progressive change. As a teenager, I joined forces with the NAACP to integrate my female cheer squad at San Fernando High School. I escaped an abusive marriage and raised two sons on public assistance. With a graduate degree in social work, I opened a community mental health center to help those in need. As a legislator and Congresswoman, I increased penalties on people who block access to abortion clinics, and wrote California's first Violence Against Women Act. I expanded affordable housing and childcare, and fought to lift families out of poverty. I secured billions for HIV/AIDS that has saved 25 million lives around the world. I fought against voter suppression measures and, as lead plaintiff in the NAACP's lawsuit, I held Trump accountable for the January 6th riots. I was the only member of Congress to vote

against the war in Afghanistan, the only candidate in this race to vote against the Iraq War, and the first to call for a ceasefire in the Middle East. I understand the struggles Californians face because I've lived them too. That's why I'll fight to protect reproductive freedom, deliver affordable housing and middle-class tax cuts, combat the climate crisis, and fight to protect our democracy. As a Black woman and accomplished legislator, I'll bring a much-needed voice to the Senate. Your fight will be my fight, and we will win together. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—FULL TERM



Martin Veprauskas | REPUBLICAN

I am a California resident since 1985, US Navy Veteran, MS Cyber Security, and 4 years supporting Missile Defense Agency.

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martinforcalifornia.com | Facebook: Martin Veprauskas

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—PARTIAL/UNEXPIRED TERM

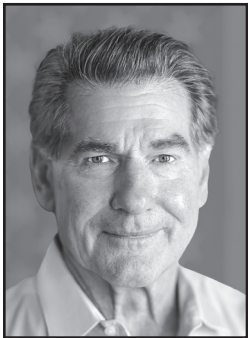
- Serves as one of the two Senators who represent California’s interests in the United States Congress.
 - Proposes and votes on new national laws.
 - Votes on confirming federal judges, U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and many high-level presidential appointments to civilian and military positions.
 - Will serve the remainder of the current term ending on January 3, 2025.
-



Sepi Gilani | DEMOCRATIC

Save a tree! Please check the campaign website.

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Steve Garvey | REPUBLICAN

Over 50 years ago, I came to California for the first time. For the next 20 years, I played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres in front of millions of fans watching on TV and cheering in the stands. At that time, California was the heartbeat of America, now it’s just a murmur. Years of bad policies have led to the highest cost of living in the country, rising violent crime, out-of-control homelessness, and failing schools. Politicians have let all Californians down. When I’m your Senator, we will tackle homelessness by getting serious about mental health, drug addiction treatment, and the cost of housing. We will fight crime by enforcing our laws and punishing criminals. We will once again have the best schools in the country and provide our children with a first-class education. We will create good jobs, support small businessowners, and bring down the cost of living so every dollar goes farther for your family. By working

together, we will solve our problems with common-sense solutions, and not the same old tired politics. It’s time for political courage and we deserve leaders who will represent your interests, not their own. California allowed me to live my dream of playing in the Major Leagues, and you deserve to live yours. I hope to earn your support, so we can work together and restore the quality of life and opportunities we all deserve.

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Facebook: [facebook.com/SteveGarvey6](https://www.facebook.com/SteveGarvey6) | Instagram: [instagram.com/SteveGarvey6](https://www.instagram.com/SteveGarvey6)

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—PARTIAL/UNEXPIRED TERM



Katie Porter | DEMOCRATIC

In Washington, powerful special interests have too much control, while Congress bogs down with endless partisan battles. The result? California’s real challenges, from affordable housing to the climate crisis, don’t get solved. They’re ignored or made even worse. After years of speaking truth to power as a consumer protection attorney, I was elected to Congress in 2018. I don’t “do Congress” like lifelong politicians and Washington insiders. I’m running to be *your* U.S. Senator to unrig the system. I’m one of the few in Congress who has never taken corporate PAC money—not one penny. I’m one of just 11 out of 435 Members of Congress who refuse campaign contributions from federal lobbyists. Instead, I’m leading the fight to ban Members of Congress from trading stocks. Whether it’s Big Banks, Big Pharma, or Big Oil, I won’t stand for corporate special interests lying to or ripping off Californians. I call them out and hold them accountable. I’ve been called “a watchdog,” “the leadership we desperately need,” and “Congress’ toughest questioner.” Often using a whiteboard, I’ve successfully exposed corporate greed and cut through bureaucratic doublespeak to deliver results. I’m a single mom of three kids attending California public schools. As Senator, my priorities will be yours: Making life in California more affordable. Reducing housing costs. Combating climate change. Protecting reproductive rights. And ensuring good, high-paying California jobs. Learn more at KatiePorter.com. Let’s shake up the Senate and solve our real problems. I’d be honored to earn your vote.

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Christina Pascucci | DEMOCRATIC

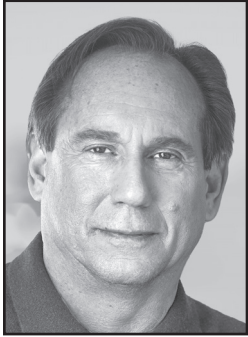
Born and raised in California to remarkable parents, including an immigrant mother, I learned early the value of hard work and the promise of the California dream. As a first-generation college graduate, I understand that education is a gateway to opportunities and empowerment. Expecting my first child, I am determined to ensure that my daughter and all Californians have access to quality education, healthcare, and the opportunity to get ahead. I recognize the struggles many working families face, barely affording groceries, gas, and rent. It’s those forgotten people whose stories I helped tell as a local journalist, and it’s those people who I will champion in the US Senate. We need to invest in our public schools and working families. Childcare should be made more affordable, by offering incentives to employers who help defray the cost to their employees. I will also fight for affordable housing, especially for first responders and teachers. California is broken, but not unfixable. However, our current leaders are more fixated on fighting each other than figuring out solutions. I’m not a DC insider. As Senator, I’ll stand up for your rights and interests. It’s time to put people over politics. This Election Day, you have a choice between how it’s been done, and how it can be. I respectfully ask for your vote.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—PARTIAL/UNEXPIRED TERM



Eric Early | REPUBLICAN

Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago? The career politicians in DC have brought us a world of hurt. I'm no career politician. I'm a husband, father and successful small business owner. I am proud to be supported by great California Republican organizations and their members, including the California Republican Assembly, numerous County Republican Central Committees and the College Republicans of America. Long ago, I worked on the "GI Joe", "Jem" and "Transformers" TV series, putting myself through law school at night. I've been a fighter my entire career, to support my family while attending night school, and then to create one of California's top law firms. California needs a fighter in DC. As your next US Senator, I will fight for you and all Forgotten Americans. We must send the military to the border to end illegal immigration and Fentanyl trafficking; stop reckless spending causing

inflation; protect our 2nd Amendment rights; make America energy independent; root out the internal Marxist threat to our nation; stop schools indoctrinating children about gender fluidity and America hatred; rid women's sports of biological males; prevent violent criminals from walking free; end the Ukraine war; stand for Israel against terror; and investigate a Justice Department weaponized to destroy our former President. America *is* exceptional. With courage and belief in God, America will prevail in this battle of good versus evil. I respectfully ask for your vote so I can fight for you and put America first. Learn more at www.EricEarly.com.

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Adam B. Schiff | DEMOCRATIC

Adam Schiff has always taken on the toughest fights to get things done for California. He's running for the U.S. Senate to continue delivering real results for Californians—making housing more affordable, lowering costs, protecting the planet, protecting abortion access, and building an economy that works for everyone, especially working families. From the courtroom to Congress, Adam took on the biggest bullies—drug companies, polluters, and drug cartels—and won. He has passed dozens of laws to lower prescription drug costs, expand public transit, create jobs, get people off the street, build the earthquake early warning system, and establish California's Patients Bill of Rights. And when our democracy was under assault by a dangerous president, Adam investigated, impeached and held him accountable for insurrection to protect our rights and freedoms, which are still under threat. Adam has a real record of results

because he's willing to work with anyone to get things done—Democrats, Republicans and Independents. That's why hundreds of California elected officials and nine statewide labor unions have endorsed Adam's campaign. They know he'll always stand up for working families, and against special interests. Adam grew up in the Bay Area, working summers in his dad's lumber yard and as a seasonal firefighter to help pay for school. After law school, he settled in Southern California. Adam has been married to Eve (yes, they've heard all the jokes) for 28 years. They have two wonderful kids, Lexi and Eli. Visit www.AdamSchiff.com to learn more.

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES SENATE—PARTIAL/UNEXPIRED TERM



Barbara Lee | DEMOCRATIC

Californians are struggling. Now more than ever, you deserve an experienced Senator who has delivered real progressive change. As a teenager, I joined forces with the NAACP to integrate my female cheer squad at San Fernando High School. I escaped an abusive marriage and raised two sons on public assistance. With a graduate degree in social work, I opened a community mental health center to help those in need. As a legislator and Congresswoman, I increased penalties on people who block access to abortion clinics, and wrote California’s first Violence Against Women Act. I expanded affordable housing and childcare, and fought to lift families out of poverty. I secured billions for HIV/AIDS that has saved 25 million lives around the world. I fought against voter suppression measures and, as lead plaintiff in the NAACP’s lawsuit, I held Trump accountable for the January 6th riots. I was the only member of Congress to vote against the war in Afghanistan, the only candidate in this race to vote against the Iraq War, and the first to call for a ceasefire in the Middle East. I understand the struggles Californians face because I’ve lived them too. That’s why I’ll fight to protect reproductive freedom, deliver affordable housing and middle-class tax cuts, combat the climate crisis, and fight to protect our democracy. As a Black woman and accomplished legislator, I’ll bring a much-needed voice to the Senate. Your fight will be my fight, and we will win together. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

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PROPOSITION 1

This law proposed by Senate Bill 326 of the 2023–2024 Regular Session (Chapter 790, Statutes of 2023) and Assembly Bill 531 of the 2023–2024 Regular Session (Chapter 789, Statutes of 2023) is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article II of, and Article XVI of, the California Constitution. This proposed law amends and adds sections to the Welfare and Institutions Code; therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in ~~strikeout type~~ and new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

PROPOSED LAW

PROVISIONS PROPOSED BY CHAPTER 790 OF THE STATUTES OF 2023

SECTION 1. The people of the State of California hereby find and declare all of the following:

(a) One in 20 adults in California is living with a serious mental illness (SMI). One in 13 children in California has a serious emotional disturbance (SED) and 30 percent of youth 12 to 24 years of age experience serious psychological distress.

(b) One in 10 Californians meet the criteria for a substance use disorder.

(c) The number of amphetamine-related emergency department (ED) visits increased nearly 50 percent between 2018 and 2020, while the number of non-heroin-related opioid ED visits, including fentanyl ED visits, more than doubled in the same period. Data shows a 121% increase in opioid deaths between 2019 and 2021.

(d) Nationally, suicide rates among youth between 10 and 18 years of age have increased. Hospitals have reported a significant increase in the number of adolescents seeking psychiatric treatment in emergency departments.

(e) Veterans have a higher rate of suicide than the general population and experience higher rates of mental illness or substance abuse disorder. In 2020, there were over 10,000 Californian veterans experiencing homelessness.

(f) Recent research from the University of California, San Francisco found that the majority of homeless Californians (82%) reported a period in their life where they experienced a serious mental health condition. More than one quarter (27%) had been hospitalized for a mental health condition. Nearly two-thirds (65%) reported having had a period in their life in which they regularly used illicit drugs.

(g) California's behavioral health care system must serve the state's diversity of people, families, and communities and reduce gaps in access and outcomes for all—including gaps due to geography, age, gender, race, ethnicity, or other factors identified by data.

(h) Research shows that incarcerating the mentally ill is counterproductive to rehabilitation and long-term public safety due to recidivism. It costs \$100,000 per person to incarcerate an estimated 150,000 people who are mentally ill; treatment provides far better outcomes at far less cost.

(i) The limited availability of community-based care facilities to support rehabilitation and recovery contributes to the growing crisis of homelessness and incarceration among those living with a mental health disorder. Research indicates that the state has a shortage of over 2,700 subacute and nearly 3,000 community residential beds. This shortage leads to huge increases in emergency department visits for mental health treatment at a very high cost.

SEC. 2. The purposes and intent in enacting this act are as follows:

(a) In 2004, California voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to expand mental health support and services in California communities.

(b) The time has come to modernize the MHSA to focus funds where they are most needed: expanding services to include treatment for those with substance use disorders and prioritizing care for those with the most serious mental illness, including the disproportionate number experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

(c) Reforms will provide guaranteed, ongoing resources for housing for those needing behavioral health services and continuing support for prevention and early intervention. This includes taking a whole person approach that is streamlined and seamless in service delivery, and supports the individual's recovery and well-being.

(d) Reforms will require strict accountability measures to ensure funds are focused on outcomes for all California families and communities and provide transparency for the public, utilizing all available behavioral health fund sources that local governments have at their disposal. Strong oversight will ensure investments are being made in effective, equitable and high-quality care.

(e) Reforms will provide funding for a robust behavioral health workforce, including thousands of counselors and psychologists. The state will lead efforts to recruit, train, and create pathways to high-quality jobs that can meet the growing and changing behavioral health care needs of Californians.

(f) Reforms will provide ongoing funding to build and sustain the necessary treatment centers and professional workforce to treat people with mental illness to avoid incarceration.

(g) Reforms will include bond funding that is intended to build more than 10,000 new treatment beds and supportive housing. Over 100,000 people per year with behavioral health conditions will get treatment, including those experiencing homelessness, veterans, and youth.

(h) The bond will dedicate funding for veterans experiencing challenges with mental health or substance abuse and homelessness.

(i) Overall, this measure strengthens the continuum of care for all Californians and especially the most vulnerable. It provides substantial state investment, improves statewide accountability, and increases Californians' access to behavioral health services.

SEC. 14. Section 5604 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5604. (a) (1) Each community mental health service shall have a mental health board consisting of 10 to 15 members, depending on the preference of the county, appointed by the governing body, except that boards in counties with a population of fewer than 80,000 may have a minimum of five members. A county with more than five supervisors shall have at least the same number of members as the size of its board of supervisors. This section does not limit the ability of the governing body to increase the number of members above 15.

(2) (A) The board shall serve in an advisory role to the governing body, and one member of the board shall be a member of the local governing body. Local mental health boards may recommend appointees to the county supervisors. The board membership should reflect the diversity of the client population in the county to the extent possible.

(B) Fifty percent of the board membership shall be consumers, or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services. At least 20 percent of the total membership shall be consumers, and at least 20 percent shall be families of consumers.

(C) (i) In counties with a population of 100,000 or more, at least one member of the board shall be a veteran or veteran advocate. In counties with a population of fewer than 100,000, the county shall give a strong preference to appointing at least one member of the board who is a veteran or a veteran advocate.

(ii) To comply with clause (i), a county shall notify its county veterans service officer about vacancies on the board, if a county has a veterans service officer.

(D) In addition to the requirements in subparagraphs (B) and (C), counties are encouraged to appoint individuals who have experience with, and knowledge of, the mental health system. This would include members of the community that engage with individuals living with mental illness in the course of daily operations, such as representatives of county offices of education, large and small businesses, hospitals, hospital districts, physicians practicing in emergency departments, city police chiefs, county sheriffs, and community and nonprofit service providers.

(3) (A) In counties with a population that is fewer than 80,000, at least one member shall be a consumer and at least one member shall be a parent, spouse, sibling,

or adult child of a consumer who is receiving, or has received, mental health services.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a board in a county with a population that is fewer than 80,000 that elects to have the board exceed the five-member minimum permitted under paragraph (1) shall be required to comply with paragraph (2).

(b) The mental health board shall review and evaluate the local public mental health system, pursuant to Section 5604.2, and advise the governing body on community mental health services delivered by the local mental health agency or local behavioral health agency, as applicable.

(c) The term of each member of the board shall be for three years. The governing body shall equitably stagger the appointments so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

(d) If two or more local agencies jointly establish a community mental health service pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the mental health board for the community mental health service shall consist of an additional two members for each additional agency, one of whom shall be a consumer or a parent, spouse, sibling, or adult child of a consumer who has received mental health services.

(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the board or the member's spouse shall not be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Department of Health Care Services, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of, a mental health contract agency.

(2) A consumer of mental health services who has obtained employment with an employer described in paragraph (1) and who holds a position in which the consumer does not have any interest, influence, or authority over any financial or contractual matter concerning the employer may be appointed to the board. The member shall abstain from voting on any financial or contractual issue concerning the member's employer that may come before the board.

(f) Members of the board shall abstain from voting on any issue in which the member has a financial interest as defined in Section 87103 of the Government Code.

(g) If it is not possible to secure membership as specified in this section from among persons who reside in the county, the governing body may substitute representatives of the public interest in mental health who are not full-time or part-time employees of the county mental health service, the State Department of Health Care Services, or on the staff of, or a paid member of the governing body of, a mental health contract agency.

(h) The mental health board may be established as an advisory board or a commission, depending on the preference of the county.

(i) For purposes of this section, “veteran advocate” means either a parent, spouse, or adult child of a veteran, or an individual who is part of a veterans organization, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion.

(j) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.*

SEC. 15. Section 5604 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5604. (a) (1) (A) *Each community mental health service shall have a behavioral health board consisting of 10 to 15 members, depending on the preference of the county, appointed by the governing body, except that a board in a county with a population of fewer than 80,000 may have a minimum of 5 members.*

(B) *A county with more than five supervisors shall have at least the same number of members as the size of its board of supervisors.*

(C) *This section does not limit the ability of the governing body to increase the number of members above 15.*

(2) (A) (i) *The board shall serve in an advisory role to the governing body, and one member of the board shall be a member of the local governing body.*

(ii) *Local behavioral health boards may recommend appointees to the county supervisors.*

(iii) *The board membership shall reflect the diversity of the client population in the county to the extent possible.*

(B) (i) *Fifty percent of the board membership shall be consumers, or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received behavioral health services. At least one of these members shall be an individual who is 25 years of age or younger.*

(ii) *At least 20 percent of the total membership shall be consumers, and at least 20 percent shall be families of consumers.*

(C) (i) *In a county with a population of 100,000 or more, at least one member of the board shall be a veteran or veteran advocate. In a county with a population of fewer than 100,000, the county shall give a strong preference to appointing at least one member of the board who is a veteran or a veteran advocate.*

(ii) *To comply with clause (i), a county shall notify its county veterans service officer about vacancies on the board, if the county has a veterans service officer.*

(D) (i) *At least one member of the board shall be an employee of a local education agency.*

(ii) *To comply with clause (i), a county shall notify its county office of education about vacancies on the board.*

(E) (i) *In addition to the requirements in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), counties are encouraged to appoint*

individuals who have experience with, and knowledge of, the behavioral health system.

(ii) *This would include members of the community who engage with individuals living with mental illness or substance use disorder in the course of daily operations, such as representatives of county offices of education, large and small businesses, hospitals, hospital districts, physicians practicing in emergency departments, city police chiefs, county sheriffs, and community and nonprofit service providers.*

(3) (A) *In counties with a population that is fewer than 80,000, at least one member shall be a consumer and at least one member shall be a parent, spouse, sibling, or adult child of a consumer who is receiving, or has received, mental health or substance use disorder treatment services.*

(B) *Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a board in a county with a population that is fewer than 80,000 that elects to have the board exceed the five-member minimum permitted under paragraph (1) shall be required to comply with paragraph (2).*

(b) (1) *The behavioral health board shall review and evaluate the local public mental health system, pursuant to Section 5604.2, and review and evaluate the local public substance use disorder treatment system.*

(2) *The behavioral health board shall advise the governing body on community mental health and substance use disorder services delivered by the local mental health agency or local behavioral health agency, as applicable.*

(c) (1) *The term of each member of the board shall be for three years.*

(2) *The governing body shall equitably stagger the appointments so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.*

(d) *If two or more local agencies jointly establish a community mental health service pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the behavioral health board for the community mental health service shall consist of an additional two members for each additional agency, one of whom shall be a consumer or a parent, spouse, sibling, or adult child of a consumer who has received mental health or substance use disorder treatment services.*

(e) (1) *Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the board or the member’s spouse shall not be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health and substance use disorder service, an employee of the State Department of Health Care Services, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of, a mental health or substance use disorder contract agency.*

(2) (A) *A consumer of behavioral health services who has obtained employment with an employer described in paragraph (1) and who holds a position in which the consumer does not have an interest, influence, or*

authority over a financial or contractual matter concerning the employer may be appointed to the board.

(B) The member shall abstain from voting on a financial or contractual issue concerning the member's employer that may come before the board.

(f) Members of the board shall abstain from voting on an issue in which the member has a financial interest as defined in Section 87103 of the Government Code.

(g) If it is not possible to secure membership as specified in this section from among persons who reside in the county, the governing body may substitute representatives of the public interest in behavioral health who are not full-time or part-time employees of the county behavioral health service, the State Department of Health Care Services, or on the staff of, or a paid member of the governing body of, a behavioral health contract agency.

(h) The behavioral health board may be established as an advisory board or a commission, depending on the preference of the county.

(i) For purposes of this section, "veteran advocate" means either a parent, spouse, or adult child of a veteran, or an individual who is part of a veterans organization, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion.

(j) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 18. Section 5604.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5604.2. (a) The local mental health board shall do all of the following:

(1) Review and evaluate the community's public mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems in any facility within the county or jurisdiction where mental health evaluations or services are being provided, including, but not limited to, schools, emergency departments, and psychiatric facilities.

(2) Review any county agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650. The local mental health board may make recommendations to the governing body regarding concerns identified within these agreements.

(3) Advise the governing body and the local mental health director as to any aspect of the local mental health program. Local mental health boards may request assistance from the local patients' rights advocates when reviewing and advising on mental health evaluations or services provided in public facilities with limited access.

(4) Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process. Involvement shall include individuals with lived experience of mental illness and their families, community members, advocacy organizations, and mental health professionals. It shall also include

other professionals that interact with individuals living with mental illnesses on a daily basis, such as education, emergency services, employment, health care, housing, law enforcement, local business owners, social services, seniors, transportation, and veterans.

(5) Submit an annual report to the governing body on the needs and performance of the county's mental health system.

(6) Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of a local director of mental health services. The board shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body.

(7) Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.

(8) This part does not limit the ability of the governing body to transfer additional duties or authority to a mental health board.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, as part of its duties pursuant to subdivision (a), the board shall assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to the county, on services delivered to clients and on the local community.

(c) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 19. Section 5604.2 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5604.2. (a) The local behavioral health board shall do all of the following:

(1) Review and evaluate the community's public behavioral health needs, services, facilities, and special problems in a facility within the county or jurisdiction where mental health or substance use disorder evaluations or services are being provided, including, but not limited to, schools, emergency departments, and psychiatric facilities.

(2) (A) Review county agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650.

(B) The local behavioral health board may make recommendations to the governing body regarding concerns identified within these agreements.

(3) (A) Advise the governing body and the local behavioral health director as to any aspect of the local behavioral health systems.

(B) Local behavioral health boards may request assistance from the local patients' rights advocates when reviewing and advising on mental health or substance use disorder evaluations or services provided in public facilities with limited access.

(4) (A) Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.

(B) Involvement shall include individuals with lived experience of mental illness, substance use disorder, or

both, and their families, community members, advocacy organizations, and behavioral health professionals. It shall also include other professionals who interact with individuals living with mental illnesses or substance use disorders on a daily basis, such as education, emergency services, employment, health care, housing, public safety, local business owners, social services, older adults, transportation, and veterans.

(5) Submit an annual report to the governing body on the needs and performance of the county's behavioral health system.

(6) (A) Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of a local director of behavioral health services.

(B) The board shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body.

(7) Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.

(8) This part does not limit the ability of the governing body to transfer additional duties or authority to a behavioral health board.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, as part of its duties pursuant to subdivision (a), the board shall assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to the county on services delivered to clients and on the local community.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 20. Section 5604.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5604.3. (a) The board of supervisors may pay from any available funds the actual and necessary expenses of the members of the mental health board of a community mental health service incurred incident to the performance of their official duties and functions. The expenses may include travel, lodging, childcare, and meals for the members of an advisory board while on official business as approved by the director of the local mental health program.

(b) Governing bodies are encouraged to provide a budget for the local mental health board, using planning and administrative revenues identified in subdivision (c) of Section 5892, that is sufficient to facilitate the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the local mental health board.

(c) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 21. Section 5604.3 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5604.3. (a) (1) The board of supervisors may pay from available funds the actual and necessary expenses of the members of the behavioral health board of a community mental health service incurred incident to the performance of their official duties and functions.

(2) The expenses may include travel, lodging, childcare, and meals for the members of the board while on official business as approved by the director of the local behavioral health program.

(b) Governing bodies are encouraged to provide a budget for the local behavioral health board using planning and administrative revenues identified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 5892, that is sufficient to facilitate the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the local behavioral health board.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 22. Section 5604.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5604.5. The local mental health board shall develop bylaws to be approved by the governing body which shall do all of the following:

(a) Establish the specific number of members on the mental health board, consistent with subdivision (a) of Section 5604.

(b) Ensure that the composition of the mental health board represents and reflects the diversity and demographics of the county as a whole, to the extent feasible.

(c) Establish that a quorum be one person more than one-half of the appointed members.

(d) Establish that the chairperson of the mental health board be in consultation with the local mental health director.

(e) Establish that there may be an executive committee of the mental health board.

(f) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of January 1, 2026, is repealed.

SEC. 23. Section 5604.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5604.5. The local behavioral health board shall develop bylaws to be approved by the governing body that shall do all of the following:

(a) Establish the specific number of members on the behavioral health board, consistent with subdivision (a) of Section 5604.

(b) Ensure that the composition of the behavioral health board represents and reflects the diversity and demographics of the county as a whole, to the extent feasible.

(c) Establish that a quorum be one person more than one-half of the appointed members.

(d) Establish that the chairperson of the behavioral health board be in consultation with the local behavioral health director.

(e) Establish that there may be an executive committee of the behavioral health board.

(f) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 28. Section 5614 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5614. (a) The department, in consultation with the Compliance Advisory Committee that shall have representatives from relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, local mental behavioral health departments, local mental behavioral health boards and commissions, private and community-based providers, consumers and family members of consumers, local educational agency representatives including, but not limited to, educators and school staff, and advocates, shall establish a protocol for ensuring that local mental behavioral health departments meet statutory and regulatory requirements for the provision of publicly funded community mental health services provided under this part.

(b) The protocol shall include a procedure for review and assurance of compliance for all of the following elements, and any other elements element required in law or regulation:

(1) Financial maintenance of effort requirements provided for under Section 17608.05.

(2) Each local mental behavioral health board has approved procedures that ensure citizen and professional involvement in the local mental health and substance use disorder planning process.

(3) Children's services are funded pursuant to the requirements of Sections 5704.5 and 5704.6.

(4) The local mental behavioral health department complies with reporting requirements developed by the department.

(5) To the extent resources are available, the local mental behavioral health department maintains the program principles and the array of treatment options required under Sections 5600.2 to 5600.9, inclusive.

(6) The local mental behavioral health department meets the reporting required by the performance outcome systems for adults and children.

(c) (1) The protocol developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall focus on law and regulations and shall include, but not be limited to, the items specified in subdivision (b).

(2) The protocol shall include data collection procedures so that state review and reporting may occur.

(3) The protocol shall also include a procedure for the provision of technical assistance, assistance and formal decision rules and procedures for enforcement consequences when the requirements of law and regulations are not met.

(4) These standards and decision rules shall be established through the consensual stakeholder process established by the department.

(d) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 29. Section 5614 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5614. (a) The department, in consultation with the Compliance Advisory Committee that shall have representatives from relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, local behavioral health departments, local behavioral health boards and commissions, private and community-based providers, consumers and family members of consumers, local education agency representatives including, but not limited to, educators and school staff, and advocates, shall establish a protocol for ensuring that local behavioral health departments meet statutory and regulatory requirements for the provision of publicly funded community mental health services provided under this part.

(b) The protocol shall include a procedure for review and assurance of compliance for all of the following elements, and any other element required in law or regulation:

(1) Financial maintenance of effort requirements provided for under Section 17608.05.

(2) Each local behavioral health board has approved procedures that ensure citizen and professional involvement in the local mental health and substance use disorder planning process.

(3) Children's services are funded pursuant to the requirements of Sections 5704.5 and 5704.6.

(4) The local behavioral health department complies with reporting requirements developed by the department.

(5) To the extent resources are available, the local behavioral health department maintains the program principles and the array of treatment options required under Sections 5600.2 to 5600.9, inclusive.

(6) The local behavioral health department meets the reporting required by the performance outcome systems for adults and children.

(c) (1) The protocol developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall focus on law and regulations and shall include, but not be limited to, the items specified in subdivision (b).

(2) *The protocol shall include data collection procedures so that state review and reporting may occur.*

(3) *The protocol shall also include a procedure for the provision of technical assistance, and formal decision rules and procedures for enforcement consequences when the requirements of law and regulations are not met.*

(4) *These standards and decision rules shall be established through the consensual stakeholder process established by the department.*

(d) *This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 30. Section 5664 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5664. (a) In consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, the State Department of Health Care Services, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and the California Health and Human Services Agency, county behavioral health systems shall provide reports and data to meet the information needs of the state, as necessary.

(b) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.*

SEC. 35. Section 5805 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5805. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services shall require counties to use available state and matching funds for the client target population as defined in Section 5600.3 to develop a comprehensive array of services as defined in Sections 5600.6 and 5600.7.

(b) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 36. Section 5805 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5805. (a) *The State Department of Health Care Services shall require counties to use funds distributed pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 for eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, to develop a comprehensive array of services, as defined in Sections 5600.6 and 5600.7, and substance use disorder treatment services, as defined in Section 5891.5.*

(b) *A county may include services to address first episode psychosis.*

(c) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 37. Section 5806 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5806. The State Department of Health Care Services shall establish service standards that ensure that members of the target population are identified, and services provided to assist them to live independently, work, and reach their potential as productive citizens. The department shall provide annual oversight of grants issued pursuant to this part for compliance with these standards. These standards shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) A service planning and delivery process that is target population based and includes the following:

(1) Determination of the numbers of clients to be served and the programs and services that will be provided to meet their needs. The local director of mental health shall consult with the sheriff, the police chief, the probation officer, the mental health board, contract agencies, and family, client, ethnic, and citizen constituency groups as determined by the director.

(2) Plans for services, including outreach to families whose severely mentally ill adult is living with them, design of mental health services, coordination and access to medications, psychiatric and psychological services, substance abuse services, supportive housing or other housing assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and veterans' services. Plans also shall contain evaluation ~~strategies~~, *strategies* that shall consider cultural, linguistic, gender, age, and special needs of minorities in the target populations. Provision shall be made for ~~staff~~ *a workforce* with the cultural background and linguistic skills necessary to remove barriers to mental health services due to limited-English-speaking ability and cultural differences. Recipients of outreach services may include families, the public, primary care physicians, and others who are likely to come into contact with individuals who may be suffering from an untreated severe mental illness who would be likely to become homeless if the illness continued to be untreated for a substantial period of time. Outreach to adults may include adults voluntarily or involuntarily hospitalized as a result of a severe mental illness.

(3) Provision for services to meet the needs of target population clients who are physically disabled.

(4) Provision for services to meet the special needs of older adults.

(5) Provision for family support and consultation services, parenting support and consultation services, and peer support or self-help group support, where appropriate for the individual.

(6) Provision for services to be client-directed and that employ psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery principles.

(7) Provision for psychiatric and psychological services that are integrated with other services and for psychiatric and psychological collaboration in overall service planning.

(8) Provision for services specifically directed to seriously mentally ill young adults 25 years of age or younger who are homeless or at significant risk of becoming homeless. These provisions may include continuation of services that still would be received through other funds had eligibility not been terminated due to age.

(9) Services reflecting special needs of women from diverse cultural backgrounds, including supportive housing that accepts children, personal services coordinator therapeutic treatment, and substance treatment programs that address gender-specific trauma and abuse in the lives of persons with mental illness, and vocational rehabilitation programs that offer job training programs free of gender bias and sensitive to the needs of women.

(10) Provision for housing for clients that is immediate, transitional, permanent, or all of these.

(11) Provision for clients who have been suffering from an untreated severe mental illness for less than one year, and who do not require the full range of services but are at risk of becoming homeless unless a comprehensive individual and family support services plan is implemented. These clients shall be served in a manner that is designed to meet their needs.

(12) Provision for services for veterans.

(b) A client shall have a clearly designated mental health personal services coordinator who may be part of a multidisciplinary treatment team who is responsible for providing or assuring needed services. Responsibilities include complete assessment of the client's needs, development of the client's personal services plan, linkage with all appropriate community services, monitoring of the quality and followthrough of services, and necessary advocacy to ensure that the client receives those services that are agreed to in the personal services plan. A client shall participate in the development of his or her *their* personal services plan, and responsible staff shall consult with the designated conservator, if one has been appointed, and, with the consent of the client, consult with the family and other significant persons as appropriate.

(c) The individual personal services plan shall ensure that members of the target population involved in the system of care receive age-appropriate, gender-appropriate, and culturally appropriate services or appropriate services based on any characteristic listed or defined in Section 11135 of the Government Code, to the extent feasible, that are designed to enable recipients to:

(1) Live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible in the local community, and for clients with children, to live in a supportive housing environment that strives for reunification with their

children or assists clients in maintaining custody of their children as is appropriate.

(2) Engage in the highest level of work or productive activity appropriate to their abilities and experience.

(3) Create and maintain a support system consisting of friends, family, and participation in community activities.

(4) Access an appropriate level of academic education or vocational training.

(5) Obtain an adequate income.

(6) Self-manage their illness and exert as much control as possible over both the day-to-day and long-term decisions that affect their lives.

(7) Access necessary physical health care and maintain the best possible physical health.

(8) Reduce or eliminate serious antisocial or criminal behavior and thereby reduce or eliminate their contact with the criminal justice system.

(9) Reduce or eliminate the distress caused by the symptoms of mental illness.

(10) Have freedom from dangerous addictive substances.

(d) The individual personal services plan shall describe the service array that meets the requirements of subdivision ~~(e)~~, and (c) and, to the extent applicable to the individual, the requirements of subdivision (a).

(e) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 38. Section 5806 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5806. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services shall establish service standards so that adults and older adults in the target population are identified and receive needed and appropriate services from qualified staff in the least restrictive environment to assist them to live independently, work, and thrive in their communities. This section shall not apply to services covered by the Medi-Cal program and services covered by a health care service plan or other insurance coverage. These standards shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) For services funded pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892, the county may consult with the stakeholders listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5963.03.

(2) (A) Outreach to adults with a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder to provide coordination and access to behavioral health services, medications, housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830, supportive services, as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 5887, and veterans' services.

(B) Service planning shall include evaluation strategies that consider cultural, linguistic, gender, age, and special needs of the target populations.

(C) Provision shall be made for a workforce with the cultural background and linguistic skills necessary to remove barriers to mental health services and substance use disorder treatment services due to limited-English-speaking ability and cultural differences.

(D) Recipients of outreach services may include families, the public, primary care physicians, hospitals, including emergency departments, behavioral health urgent care, and others who are likely to come into contact with individuals who may be suffering from either an untreated serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or both, who would likely become homeless or incarcerated if the illness continued to be untreated for a substantial period of time.

(E) Outreach to adults may include adults voluntarily or involuntarily hospitalized as a result of a serious mental illness.

(3) Provision for services for populations with identified disparities in behavioral health outcomes.

(4) Provision for full participation of the family in all aspects of assessment, service planning, and treatment, including, but not limited to, family support and consultation services, parenting support and consultation services, and peer support or self-help group support, where appropriate and when supported by the individual.

(5) Treatment for clients who have been suffering from an untreated serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or both, for less than one year and who do not require the full range of services but are at risk of becoming homeless or incarcerated unless comprehensive individual and family support services are provided consistent with the planning process specified in subdivision (d). This includes services that are available and designed to meet their needs, including housing for clients that is immediate, transitional, permanent, or all of these services.

(6) (A) Provision for services to be client-directed and to employ psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery principles.

(B) Services may be integrated with other services and may include psychiatric and psychological collaboration in overall service planning.

(7) Provision for services specifically directed to young adults 25 years of age or younger with either a serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or both, who are chronically homeless, experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 5892, or experiencing first episode psychosis. These provisions may include continuation of services that still would be received through other funds had eligibility not been terminated due to age.

(8) Provision for services for frequent users of behavioral health urgent care, crisis stabilization units,

and hospitals or emergency room services as the primary resource for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

(9) Provision for services to meet the special needs of clients who are physically disabled, clients who are intellectually or developmentally disabled, veterans, or persons of American Indian or Alaska Native descent.

(10) Provision for services to meet the special needs of women from diverse cultural backgrounds, including supportive housing that accepts children and youth, personal services coordinators, therapeutic treatment, and substance use disorder treatment programs that address gender-specific trauma and abuse in the lives of persons with either a serious mental illness or a substance use disorder, or both, and vocational rehabilitation programs that offer job training programs free of gender bias and sensitive to the needs of women.

(b) Each adult or older adult shall have a clearly designated personal services coordinator, or case manager who may be part of a multidisciplinary treatment team who is responsible for providing case management services. The personal services coordinator may be a person or entity formally designated as primarily responsible for coordinating the services accessed by the client. The client shall be provided information on how to contact their designated person or entity.

(c) A personal services coordinator shall perform all of the following:

(1) Conduct a comprehensive assessment and periodic reassessment of a client's needs. The assessment shall include all of the following:

(A) Taking the client's history.

(B) Identifying the individual's needs, including reviewing available records and gathering information from other sources, including behavioral health service providers, medical providers, family members, social workers, and others needed to form a complete assessment.

(C) Assessing the client's living arrangements, employment status, and training needs.

(2) Plan for services using information collected through the assessment. The planning process shall do all of the following:

(A) Identify the client's goals and the behavioral health, supportive, medical, educational, social, prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, housing, or other community services needed to assist the client to reach their goals.

(B) Include active participation of the client and others in the development of the client's goals.

(C) Identify a course of action to address the client's needs.

(D) Address the transition of care when a client has achieved their goals.

(3) Assist the client in accessing needed behavioral health, supportive, medical, educational, social,

prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, housing, or other community services.

(4) Coordinate the services the county furnishes to the client between settings of care, including appropriate discharge planning for short-term hospital and institutional stays.

(5) Coordinate the services the county furnishes to the client with the services the client receives from managed care organizations, the Medicaid fee-for-service delivery system, other human services agencies, and community and social support providers.

(6) Ensure that, in the course of coordinating care, the client's privacy is protected in accordance with all federal and state privacy laws.

(d) The county shall ensure that each provider furnishing services to clients maintains and shares, as appropriate, client health records in accordance with professional standards.

(e) The service planning process shall ensure that adults and older adults receive age-appropriate, gender-appropriate, and culturally appropriate services, or appropriate services based on a characteristic listed or defined in Section 11135 of the Government Code, to the extent feasible, that are designed to enable recipients to:

(1) (A) Live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible in the local community and for clients with children and youth, to live in a supportive housing environment that strives for reunification with their children and youth or assists clients in maintaining custody of their children and youth, as appropriate.

(B) Assist individuals to rejoin or return to a home that had previously been maintained with a family member or in a shared housing environment that is supportive of their recovery and stabilization.

(2) Engage in the highest level of work or productive activity appropriate to their abilities and experience.

(3) Create and maintain a support system consisting of friends, family, and participation in community activities.

(4) Access an appropriate level of academic education or vocational training.

(5) Obtain an adequate income.

(6) Self-manage their illness and exert as much control as possible over both the day-to-day and long-term decisions that affect their lives.

(7) Access necessary physical health care and maintain the best possible physical health.

(8) Reduce or eliminate serious antisocial or criminal behavior and thereby reduce or eliminate their contact with the justice system.

(9) Reduce or eliminate the distress caused by the symptoms of either serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or both.

(10) Utilize trauma-informed approaches to reduce trauma and avoid retraumatization.

(f) (1) (A) The client's clinical record shall describe the service array that meets the requirements of subdivisions (c) and (e) and, to the extent applicable to the individual, the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b).

(B) The State Department of Health Care Services may develop and revise documentation standards for service planning to be consistent with the standards developed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (h) of Section 14184.402.

(2) Documentation of the service planning process in the client's clinical record pursuant to paragraph (1) may fulfill the documentation requirements for both the Medi-Cal program and this section.

(g) For purposes of this section, "behavioral health services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 5892.

(h) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(i) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 39. Section 5813.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5813.5. Subject to the availability of funds from the Mental Health Services Fund, the state shall distribute funds for the provision of services under Sections 5801, 5802, and 5806 to county mental health programs. Services shall be available to adults and seniors with severe illnesses who meet the eligibility criteria in subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 5600.3. For purposes of this act, "seniors" means older adult persons identified in Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) of this division.

(a) Funding shall be provided at sufficient levels to ensure that counties can provide each adult and senior served pursuant to this part with the medically necessary mental health services, medications, and supportive services set forth in the applicable treatment plan.

(b) The funding shall only cover the portions of those costs of services that cannot be paid for with other funds, including other mental health funds, public and private insurance, and other local, state, and federal funds.

(c) Each county mental health program's plan shall provide for services in accordance with the system of care for adults and seniors who meet the eligibility criteria in subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 5600.3.

(d) Planning for services shall be consistent with the philosophy, principles, and practices of the Recovery Vision for mental health consumers:

(1) To promote concepts key to the recovery for individuals who have mental illness: hope, personal empowerment, respect, social connections, self-responsibility, and self-determination.

(2) To promote consumer-operated services as a way to support recovery.

(3) To reflect the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of mental health consumers.

(4) To plan for each consumer's individual needs.

(e) The plan for each county mental health program shall indicate, subject to the availability of funds as determined by Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 5890) of this division, and other funds available for mental health services, adults and seniors with a severe mental illness being served by this program are either receiving services from this program or have a mental illness that is not sufficiently severe to require the level of services required of this program.

(f) Each county plan and annual update pursuant to Section 5847 shall consider ways to provide services similar to those established pursuant to the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program. Funds shall not be used to pay for persons incarcerated in state prison. Funds may be used to provide services to persons who are participating in a presentencing or postsentencing diversion program or who are on parole, probation, postrelease community supervision, or mandatory supervision. When included in county plans pursuant to Section 5847, funds may be used for the provision of mental health services under Sections 5347 and 5348 in counties that elect to participate in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 5345) of Chapter 2 of Part 1), and for the provision of services to clients pursuant to Part 8 (commencing with Section 5970).

(g) The department shall contract for services with county mental health programs pursuant to Section 5897. After November 2, 2004, the term "grants," as used in Sections 5814 and 5814.5, shall refer to those contracts.

(h) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 40. Section 5813.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5813.5. (a) Counties shall use funds distributed pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 for the provision of behavioral health services under Sections 5801, 5802, 5806, and 5891.5 to county behavioral health programs. This part does not obligate the counties to use funds from any other source for services pursuant to this part.

(b) Services shall be available to eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892.

(c) Funding shall be provided at sufficient levels to ensure counties can provide each adult and older adult served pursuant to this part with the medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder treatment services and medications identified during

the service planning process pursuant to Section 5806, which are in the applicable client clinical record.

(1) To maximize federal financial participation in furtherance of subdivision (d) of Section 5890, a county shall submit claims for reimbursement to the State Department of Health Care Services in accordance with applicable Medi-Cal rules and procedures for a behavioral health service or supportive service eligible for reimbursement pursuant to Title XIX or XXI of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396, et seq. and 1397aa, et seq.) when such service is paid, in whole or in part, using funds from the Behavioral Health Services Fund established pursuant to Section 5890.

(2) (A) To maximize funding from other sources, a county shall seek reimbursement for a behavioral health service, supportive service, housing intervention, or other related activity provided pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892 that is covered by or can be paid from another available funding source, including other mental health funds, substance use disorder funds, public and private insurance, and other local, state, and federal funds. This paragraph does not require counties to exhaust other funding sources before using behavioral health services fund moneys to pay for a service or related activity.

(B) A county shall make a good faith effort to enter into contracts, single case agreements, or other agreements to obtain reimbursement with health care service plans and disability insurance plans, pursuant to Section 1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code.

(C) A county shall submit requests for prior authorization for services, request letters of agreement for payment as an out-of-network provider, and pursue other means to obtain reimbursement in accordance with state and federal laws.

(3) (A) A county may report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as appropriate, complaints about a health plan's or a health insurer's failure to make a good faith effort to contract or enter into a single case agreement or other agreements to obtain reimbursement with the county.

(B) A county may also report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, respectively, a failure by a health plan or insurer to timely reimburse the county for services the plan or insurer must cover as required by state or federal law, including, but not limited to, Sections 1374.72 and 1374.721 of the Health and Safety Code and Sections 10144.5 and 10144.52 of the Insurance Code.

(C) Upon receipt of a complaint from a county, the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as applicable, shall timely investigate the complaint.

(d) Each county behavioral health program's integrated plan pursuant to Section 5963.02 shall provide for services to eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, in accordance with the system of care for adults and older adults.

(e) *Planning for services shall be consistent with the philosophy, principles, and practices of the Recovery Vision for behavioral health consumers:*

(1) *To promote concepts key to the recovery for individuals who have a mental illness or substance use disorder, or both: hope, personal empowerment, respect, social connections, self-responsibility, and self-determination.*

(2) *To promote consumer-operated services as a way to support recovery.*

(3) *To reflect the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of behavioral health consumers by addressing the inequities in behavioral health service delivery.*

(4) *To plan for each consumer's individual needs.*

(f) *The integrated plan for each county pursuant to Section 5963.02 shall indicate, subject to the availability of funds as determined by Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 5890) and other funds available for behavioral health services as defined in Section 5892, that eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, being served by this program are either receiving services from this program or have a mental illness or substance use disorder that is not sufficiently severe to require the level of services required of this program.*

(g) (1) *Each county integrated plan and annual update pursuant to Section 5963.02 shall consider ways to provide mental health services similar to those established pursuant to the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program.*

(2) *Funds shall not be used to pay for persons incarcerated in state prison.*

(3) *Funds may be used to provide services to persons who are participating in a presentencing or postsentencing diversion program or who are on parole, probation, postrelease community supervision, or mandatory supervision or in a community reentry program.*

(4) *When included in county integrated plans pursuant to Section 5963.02, funds may be used for the provision of mental health services under Sections 5347 and 5348 in counties that elect to participate in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 5345) of Chapter 2 of Part 1) and for the provision of services to clients pursuant to Part 8 (commencing with Section 5970).*

(h) (1) *The department shall contract for services with county behavioral health programs pursuant to Section 5897.*

(2) *After November 2, 2004, the term "grants," as used in Sections 5814 and 5814.5, shall refer to those contracts.*

(i) *For purposes of this section, "behavioral health services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 5892.*

(j) *For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.*

(k) *For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder treatment services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.*

(l) *For purposes of this section, "supportive services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5887.*

(m) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 42. Section 5830 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5830. County mental health programs shall develop plans for innovative programs to be funded pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.

(a) The innovative programs shall have the following purposes:

(1) To increase access to underserved groups.

(2) To increase the quality of services, including better outcomes.

(3) To promote interagency collaboration.

(4) To increase access to services, including, but not limited to, services provided through permanent supportive housing.

(b) All projects included in the innovative program portion of the county plan shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Address one of the following purposes as its primary purpose:

(A) Increase access to underserved groups, which may include providing access through the provision of permanent supportive housing.

(B) Increase the quality of services, including measurable outcomes.

(C) Promote interagency and community collaboration.

(D) Increase access to services, which may include providing access through the provision of permanent supportive housing.

(2) Support innovative approaches by doing one of the following:

(A) Introducing new mental health practices or approaches, including, but not limited to, prevention and early intervention.

(B) Making a change to an existing mental health practice or approach, including, but not limited to, adaptation for a new setting or community.

(C) Introducing a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice or an approach that has been successful in nonmental health contexts or settings.

(D) Participating in a housing program designed to stabilize a person's living situation while also providing supportive services on site.

(c) An innovative project may affect virtually any aspect of mental health practices or assess a new or changed application of a promising approach to solving persistent, seemingly intractable mental health challenges, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Administrative, governance, and organizational practices, processes, or procedures.

(2) Advocacy.

(3) Education and training for service providers, including nontraditional mental health practitioners.

(4) Outreach, capacity building, and community development.

(5) System development.

(6) Public education efforts.

(7) Research. If research is chosen for an innovative project, the county mental health program shall consider, but is not required to implement, research of the brain and its physical and biochemical processes that may have broad applications, but that have specific potential for understanding, treating, and managing mental illness, including, but not limited to, research through the Cal-BRAIN program pursuant to Section 92986 of the Education Code or other collaborative, public-private initiatives designed to map the dynamics of neuron activity.

(8) Services and interventions, including prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

(9) Permanent supportive housing development.

(d) If an innovative project has proven to be successful and a county chooses to continue it, the project workplan shall transition to another category of funding as appropriate.

(e) County mental health programs shall expend funds for their innovation programs upon approval by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

(f) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 43. Section 5830 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5830. (a) (1) *Each county shall establish and administer a program for housing interventions to serve persons who are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, as defined in Section 5892, and meet one of the following conditions:*

(A) Eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892.

(B) Eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892.

(2) Housing interventions shall not be limited to individuals enrolled in full-service partnerships pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 5887.

(3) Housing interventions shall not be limited to individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal.

(4) Housing interventions shall not discriminate against or deny access to housing for individuals that are utilizing medications for addiction treatment or other authorized medications.

(5) Housing interventions shall comply with the core components of Housing First, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 8255, and may include recovery housing, as defined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) (1) County programs for housing interventions may include any of the following:

(A) Rental subsidies.

(B) Operating subsidies.

(C) Shared housing.

(D) Family housing for eligible children and youth who meet the criteria specified in subdivision (a).

(E) The nonfederal share for transitional rent.

(F) Other housing supports, as defined by the State Department of Health Care Services, including, but not limited to, the community supports policy guide.

(G) Capital development projects, including affordable housing, as described in paragraph (2).

(H) Project-based housing assistance, including master leasing of project-based housing.

(I) Funds pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892 shall not be used for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

(2) (A) County programs for housing interventions may include capital development projects, under the provisions of Section 5831, to either construct or rehabilitate housing units, or both, for the persons meeting the criteria specified in subdivision (a) consistent with the State Department of Health Care Services guidelines for this purpose.

(B) The units funded pursuant to this provision shall be available in a reasonable timeframe, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services and consistent with the county integrated plan pursuant to Section 5963.02, and shall meet a cost-per-unit threshold as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services.

(C) For purposes of this section and Section 5831, "affordable housing" includes supportive housing. "Supportive housing" has the same meaning as defined in Section 50675.14 of the Health and Safety Code.

(3) County programs for housing interventions shall comply with all requirements specified by the State Department of Health Care Services, pursuant to

Section 5963.05, for the purposes of administering paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) (1) To the extent that necessary federal approvals have been obtained for the Medi-Cal program to cover housing interventions and federal financial participation is available and not otherwise jeopardized, the housing interventions funds distributed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892 may be used for the nonfederal share of Medi-Cal covered housing related services. The housing intervention funds distributed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892 shall only cover the costs that cannot be paid for with Medi-Cal program funds, including costs for Medi-Cal members enrolled in a Medi-Cal managed care plan, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, that does not cover those services.

(2) Funds shall not be used for housing interventions covered by a Medi-Cal managed care plan, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, a capital development project funded pursuant to this section shall not constitute a "low rent housing project," as provided for in subdivision (e).

(e) "Low rent housing project," as defined in Section 1 of Article XXXIV of the California Constitution, does not apply to a project that meets any of the following criteria:

(1) The project meets both of the following criteria:

(A) Is privately owned housing, receiving no ad valorem property tax exemption other than exemptions granted pursuant to subdivision (f) or (g) of Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, not fully reimbursed to all taxing entities.

(B) Not more than 49 percent of the dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations of the development may be occupied by persons of low income.

(2) The project is privately owned housing, is not exempt from ad valorem taxation by reason of public ownership, and is not financed with direct long-term financing from a public body.

(3) The project is intended for owner-occupancy, which may include a limited-equity housing cooperative, as defined in Section 50076.5 of the Health and Safety Code, cooperative, or condominium ownership rather than for rental-occupancy.

(4) The project consists of newly constructed, privately owned, one- to four-family dwellings not located on adjoining sites.

(5) The project consists of existing dwelling units leased by the state public body from the private owner of these dwelling units.

(6) The project consists of the rehabilitation, reconstruction, improvement, or addition to, or replacement of, dwelling units of a previously existing low-rent housing project or a project previously or currently occupied by lower income households, as

defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(7) The project consists of the acquisition, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or improvement, or any combination thereof, of a project that, prior to the date of the transaction to acquire, rehabilitate, reconstruct, or improve, or any combination thereof, was subject to a contract for federal or state public body assistance for the purpose of providing affordable housing for low-income households and maintains, or enters into, a contract for federal or state public body assistance for the purpose of providing affordable housing for low-income households.

(8) The project consists of the acquisition, rehabilitation, reconstruction, alterations work, or new construction, or a combination thereof, of lodging facilities or dwelling units using moneys received from the Behavioral Health Services Fund established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5890.

(f) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that funds are provided from the Behavioral Health Services Fund for purposes of this section. This section does not obligate the counties to use funds from any other source for services pursuant to this section.

(g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 44. Section 5831 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5831. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, a capital development project funded, in whole or in part, pursuant to Section 5892 shall be a use by right that shall be subject to the streamlined, ministerial review process, pursuant to subdivision (b), if it meets all of the following criteria:

(A) (i) Affordable housing shall be located in a zone where multifamily residential, office, retail, or parking are a principally permitted use. Nothing here shall be construed to limit other housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830 that conform to existing zoning.

(ii) The intent of capital development funding is to prioritize the production of housing that provides long-term housing stability.

(B) At least 75 percent of the perimeter of the site adjoins parcels that are developed with urban uses.

(C) It satisfies the requirements specified in subparagraphs (B) to (K), inclusive, of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4 of the Government Code.

(D) It is not on a site or adjoined to any site where more than one-third of the square footage on the site is dedicated to industrial use.

(E) The development will meet the following objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design review standards:

(i) For affordable housing, the applicable objective standards shall be those for the zone that allows residential use at a greater density between the following:

(I) The existing zoning designation for the parcel if existing zoning allows for residential use.

(II) The zoning designation for the closest parcel that allows residential use at a density deemed appropriate to accommodate housing for lower income households in that jurisdiction as specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2 of the Government Code.

(ii) The applicable objective standards shall be those in effect at the time that the development application is submitted to the local government pursuant to this article.

(iii) A development proposed pursuant to this section shall be eligible for the same density bonus, incentives or concessions, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios applicable to a project that meets the criteria specified in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 65915 of the Government Code.

(F) No housing units were acquired by eminent domain.

(G) The housing units will be in decent, safe, and sanitary condition at the time of their occupancy.

(H) The project meets the labor standards contained in Sections 65912.130 and 65912.131 of the Government Code.

(I) The project provides housing for individuals who meet the criteria specified in subdivision (a) of Section 5830 and their families.

(J) Affordable housing shall require long-term covenants and restrictions require the housing units to be restricted to persons who meet the criteria specified in subdivision (a) for no fewer than 30 years.

(2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, parcels only separated by a street or highway shall be considered to be adjoined.

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, “dedicated to industrial use” means any of the following:

(i) The square footage is currently being used as an industrial use.

(ii) The most recently permitted use of the square footage is an industrial use.

(iii) The site was designated for industrial use in the latest version of a local government’s general plan adopted before January 1, 2022.

(b) The project shall be subject to the following streamlined, ministerial review process:

(1) (A) If the local government determines that a development submitted pursuant to this article is consistent with the objective planning standards specified in this article, it shall approve the development.

(B) If a local government determines that a development submitted pursuant to this article is in conflict with any of the objective planning standards specified in this article, it shall provide the development proponent written documentation of which standard or standards the development conflicts with, and an explanation for the reason or reasons the development conflicts with that standard or standards, within the following timeframes:

(i) Within 60 days of submission of the development proposal to the local government if the development contains 150 or fewer housing units.

(ii) Within 90 days of submission of the development proposal to the local government if the development contains more than 150 housing units.

(C) If the local government fails to provide the required documentation pursuant to subparagraph (B), the development shall be deemed to satisfy the required objective planning standards.

(D) (i) For purposes of this section, a development is consistent with the objective planning standards if there is substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the development is consistent with the objective planning standards.

(ii) For purposes of this section, a development is not in conflict with the objective planning standards solely on the basis that application materials are not included, if the application contains substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the development is consistent with the objective planning standards.

(E) The determination of whether a proposed project submitted pursuant to this section is or is not in conflict with the objective planning standards is not a “project” as defined in Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code.

(2) Design review of the development may be conducted by the local government’s planning commission or any equivalent board or commission responsible for design review. That design review shall be objective and be strictly focused on assessing compliance with criteria required for streamlined, ministerial review of projects, as well as any reasonable objective design standards published and adopted by ordinance or resolution by a local jurisdiction before submittal of the development to the local government, and shall be broadly applicable to developments within the jurisdiction. That design review shall be completed as follows and shall not in any way inhibit, chill, or preclude the ministerial approval provided by this section or its effect, as applicable:

(A) Within 90 days of submittal of the development proposal to the local government pursuant to this section if the development contains 150 or fewer housing units.

(B) Within 180 days of submittal of the development proposal to the local government pursuant to this section if the development contains more than 150 housing units.

(c) *Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code shall not apply to actions taken by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the State Department of Health Care Services, or a local agency not acting as the lead agency to provide financial assistance or insurance for the development and construction of projects built pursuant to this section.*

(d) *The applicant shall file a notice of exemption with the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk of the county in which the project is located in the manner specified in subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code.*

(e) *For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:*

(1) *“Objective zoning standards,” “objective subdivision standards,” and “objective design review standards” mean standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official before submittal. These standards may be embodied in alternative objective land use specifications adopted by a city or county, and may include, but are not limited to, housing overlay zones, specific plans, inclusionary zoning ordinances, and density bonus ordinances.*

(2) *“Use by right” means a development project that satisfies both of the following conditions:*

(A) *The development project does not require a conditional use permit, planned unit development permit, or other discretionary local government review.*

(B) *The development project is not a “project” for purposes of Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.*

(f) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 49. Section 5840 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5840. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services, in coordination with counties, shall establish a program designed to prevent mental illnesses from becoming severe and disabling. The program shall emphasize improving timely access to services for underserved populations.

(b) The program shall include the following components:

(1) Outreach to families, employers, primary care health care providers, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illnesses.

(2) Access and linkage to medically necessary care provided by county mental health programs for children with severe serious mental illness, as defined in Section 5600.3, and for adults and seniors with severe mental

illness, as defined in Section 5600.3, as early in the onset of these conditions as practicable.

(3) Reduction in stigma associated with either being diagnosed with a mental illness or seeking mental health services.

(4) Reduction in discrimination against people with mental illness.

(c) The program shall include mental health services similar to those provided under other programs that are effective in preventing mental illnesses from becoming severe, and shall also include components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated severe mental illnesses and assisting people in quickly regaining productive lives.

(d) The program shall emphasize strategies to reduce the following negative outcomes that may result from untreated mental illness:

(1) Suicide.

(2) Incarcerations.

(3) School failure or dropout.

(4) Unemployment.

(5) Prolonged suffering.

(6) Homelessness.

(7) Removal of children from their homes.

(e) Prevention and early intervention funds may be used to broaden the provision of community-based mental health services by adding prevention and early intervention services or activities to these services, including prevention and early intervention strategies that address mental health needs, substance misuse or substance use disorders, or needs relating to cooccurring mental health and substance use services.

~~(f) In consultation with mental health stakeholders, and consistent with regulations from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, pursuant to Section 5846, the department shall revise the program elements in Section 5840 applicable to all county mental health programs in future years to reflect what is learned about the most effective prevention and intervention programs for children, adults, and seniors.~~

~~(f) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.~~

SEC. 50. Section 5840 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5840. (a) (1) *Each county shall establish and administer an early intervention program that is designed to prevent mental illnesses and substance use disorders from becoming severe and disabling and to reduce disparities in behavioral health.*

(2) *Early intervention programs shall be funded pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.*

(b) An early intervention program shall include the following components:

(1) Outreach to families, employers, primary care health care providers, behavioral health urgent care, hospitals, inclusive of emergency departments, education, including early care and learning, T-12, and higher education, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental health illnesses and substance use disorders.

(2) (A) Access and linkage to medically necessary care provided by county behavioral health programs as early in the onset of these conditions as practicable.

(B) Access and linkage to care includes the scaling of, and referral to, the Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) Plus Program, pursuant to Part 3.4 (commencing with Section 5835), Coordinated Specialty Care, or other similar evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices for early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention programs.

(3) (A) Mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices for similar to those provided under other programs that are effective in preventing mental health illnesses and substance use disorders from becoming severe, and components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated serious mental health illnesses and substance use disorders and assisting people in quickly regaining productive lives.

(B) Mental health treatment services may include services to address first episode psychosis.

(C) Mental health and substance use disorder services shall include services that are demonstrated to be effective at meeting the cultural and linguistic needs of diverse communities.

(D) Mental health and substance use disorder services may be provided to the following eligible children and youth:

(E) Mental health and substance use services may include services that prevent, respond, or treat a behavioral health crisis.

(i) Individual children and youth at high risk for a behavioral health disorder due to experiencing trauma, as evidenced by scoring in the high-risk range under a trauma screening tool such as an adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) screening tool, involvement in the child welfare system or juvenile justice system, or experiencing homelessness.

(ii) Individual children and youth in populations with identified disparities in behavioral health outcomes.

(4) Additional components developed by the State Department of Health Care Services.

(c) (1) The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, counties, and stakeholders, shall establish a biennial list of evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices that may include practices identified

pursuant to the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Act set forth in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5961) of Part 7.

(2) Evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices may focus on addressing the needs of those who decompensate into severe behavioral health conditions.

(3) Local programs utilizing evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices may focus on addressing the needs of underserved communities, such as BIPOC and LGBTQ+.

(4) Counties shall utilize the list to determine which evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices to implement locally.

(5) The State Department of Health Care Services may require a county to implement specific evidence-based and community-defined evidence practices.

(d) The early intervention program shall emphasize the reduction of the likelihood of:

(1) Suicide and self-harm.

(2) Incarcerations.

(3) School, including early childhood 0 to 5 years of age, inclusive, TK-12, and higher education, suspension, expulsion, referral to an alternative or community school, or failure to complete.

(4) Unemployment.

(5) Prolonged suffering.

(6) Homelessness.

(7) Removal of children from their homes.

(8) Overdose.

(9) Mental illness in children and youth from social, emotional, developmental, and behavioral needs in early childhood.

(e) For purposes of this section, “substance use disorder” shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(f) For purposes of this section, “community-defined evidence practices” is defined as an alternative or complement to evidence-based practices, that offers culturally anchored interventions that reflect the values, practices, histories, and lived-experiences of the communities they serve. These practices come from the community and the organizations that serve them and are found to yield positive results as determined by community consensus over time.

(g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 51. Section 5840.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5840.5. It is the intent of the Legislature that this chapter achieve all of the following:

(a) Expand the provision of high quality Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs at the county level in California.

(b) Increase the number of PEI programs and systems, including those utilizing community-defined practices, that focus on reducing disparities for unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served racial, ethnic, and cultural communities.

(c) Reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, homelessness, suicides, and inpatient days by appropriately utilizing community-based services and improving timely access to prevention and early intervention services.

(d) Increase participation in community activities, school attendance, social interactions, physical and primary health care services, personal bonding relationships, and rehabilitation, including employment and daily living function development for clients.

(e) Increase collaboration and coordination among primary care, mental health, and aging service providers, and reduce hesitance to seek treatment and services due to mental health stigma.

(f) Create a more focused approach for PEI requirements.

(g) Increase programmatic and fiscal oversight of county MHSA-funded PEI programs.

(h) Encourage counties to coordinate and blend funding streams and initiatives to ensure services are integrated across systems.

(i) Encourage counties to leverage innovative technology platforms.

(j) Reflect the stated goals as outlined in the PEI component of the MHSA, as stated in Section 5840.

(k) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 52. Section 5840.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5840.6. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) “Commission” means the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission established pursuant to Section 5845.

(b) “County” also includes a city receiving funds pursuant to Section 5701.5.

(c) “Prevention and early intervention funds” means funds from the Mental Health Services Fund allocated for prevention and early intervention programs pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.

(d) “Childhood trauma prevention and early intervention” refers to a program that targets children exposed to, or who are at risk of exposure to, adverse and traumatic childhood events and prolonged toxic stress in order to deal with the early origins of mental

health needs and prevent long-term mental health concerns. This may include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Focused outreach and early intervention to at-risk and in-need populations.

(2) Implementation of appropriate trauma and developmental screening and assessment tools with linkages to early intervention services to children that qualify for these services.

(3) Collaborative, strengths-based approaches that appreciate the resilience of trauma survivors and support their parents and caregivers when appropriate.

(4) Support from peer support specialists and community health workers trained to provide mental health services.

(5) Multigenerational family engagement, education, and support for navigation and service referrals across systems that aid the healthy development of children and families.

(6) Linkages to primary care health settings, including, but not limited to, federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, community-based providers, school-based health centers, and school-based programs.

(7) Leveraging the healing value of traditional cultural connections, including policies, protocols, and processes that are responsive to the racial, ethnic, and cultural needs of individuals served and recognition of historical trauma.

(8) Coordinated and blended funding streams to ensure individuals and families experiencing toxic stress have comprehensive and integrated supports across systems.

(e) “Early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention” has the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5835 and may include programming across the age span.

(f) “Youth outreach and engagement” means strategies that target secondary school and transition age youth, with a priority on partnerships with college mental health programs that educate and engage students and provide either on-campus, off-campus, or linkages to mental health services not provided through the campus to students who are attending colleges and universities, including, but not limited to, public community colleges. Outreach and engagement may include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Meeting the mental health needs of students that cannot be met through existing education funds.

(2) Establishing direct linkages for students to community-based mental health services.

(3) Addressing direct services, including, but not limited to, increasing college mental health staff-to-student ratios and decreasing wait times.

(4) Participating in evidence-based and community-defined best practice programs for mental health services.

(5) Serving underserved and vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and veterans.

(6) Establishing direct linkages for students to community-based mental health services for which reimbursement is available through the students' health coverage.

(7) Reducing racial disparities in access to mental health services.

(8) Funding mental health stigma reduction training and activities.

(9) Providing college employees and students with education and training in early identification, intervention, and referral of students with mental health needs.

(10) Interventions for youth with signs of behavioral or emotional problems who are at risk of, or have had any, contact with the juvenile justice system.

(11) Integrated youth mental health programming.

(12) Suicide prevention programming.

(g) "Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention" refers to a program that creates critical linkages with community-based organizations, including, but not limited to, clinics licensed or operated under subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, or clinics exempt from clinic licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code.

(1) "Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate" means the ability to reach underserved cultural populations and address specific barriers related to racial, ethnic, cultural, language, gender, age, economic, or other disparities in mental health services access, quality, and outcomes.

(2) "Underserved cultural populations" means those who are unlikely to seek help from any traditional mental health service because of stigma, lack of knowledge, or other barriers, including members of ethnically and racially diverse communities, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, and veterans, across their lifespans.

(h) "Strategies targeting the mental health needs of older adults" means, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Outreach and engagement strategies that target caregivers, victims of elder abuse, and individuals who live alone.

(2) Suicide prevention programming.

(3) Outreach to older adults who are isolated.

(4) Early identification programming of mental health symptoms and disorders, including, but not limited to, anxiety, depression, and psychosis.

(i) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become*

inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 53. Section 5840.6 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5840.6. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "County" includes a city receiving funds pursuant to Section 5701.5.

(b) "Early intervention funds" means funds from the Behavioral Health Services Fund allocated for early intervention services and programs pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.

(c) "Childhood trauma early intervention" refers to a program that targets eligible children and youth exposed to, or who are at risk of exposure to, adverse and traumatic childhood events and prolonged toxic stress in order to deal with the early origins of mental health and substance use disorder needs and prevent long-term mental health and substance use disorder concerns. This may include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Focused outreach and early intervention to at-risk and in-need populations, including youth experiencing homelessness, justice-involved youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and child welfare-involved youth.

(2) Implementation of appropriate trauma and developmental screening and assessment tools with linkages to early intervention services to eligible children and youth who qualify for these services.

(3) Collaborative, strengths-based approaches that appreciate the resilience of trauma survivors and support their parents and caregivers when appropriate.

(4) Support from peer support specialists, wellness coaches, and community health workers trained to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment services with an emphasis on culturally and linguistically tailored approaches.

(5) Multigenerational family engagement, education, and support for navigation and service referrals across systems that aid the healthy development of children and youth and their families.

(6) Collaboration with county child welfare agencies and other system partners, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, and homeless youth service providers, to address the physical and behavioral health-related needs and social needs of child-welfare-involved youth.

(7) Linkages to primary care health settings, including, but not limited to, federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, community-based providers, school-based health centers, school-linked providers, and school-based programs and community-based organizations specializing in serving underserved communities.

(8) Leveraging the healing value of traditional cultural connections and faith-based organizations, including policies, protocols, and processes that are responsive to the racial, ethnic, and cultural needs of individuals served and recognition of historical trauma.

(9) Blended funding streams to provide individuals and families experiencing toxic stress comprehensive and integrated supports across systems.

(10) Partnerships with local educational agencies and school-based behavioral health professionals to identify and address children exposed to, or who are at risk of exposure to, adverse and traumatic childhood events and prolonged toxic stress.

(d) “Early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention” has the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5835 and may include programming across the age span.

(e) “Youth outreach and engagement” means strategies that target out-of-school youth and secondary schoolage youth, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Establishing direct linkages for youth to community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

(2) Participating in evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence programs for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

(3) Providing supports to facilitate access to services and programs, including those utilizing community-defined evidence practices, for underserved and vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, members of ethnically and racially diverse communities, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and veterans.

(4) Establishing direct linkages for students to community-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for which reimbursement is available through the students’ health coverage.

(5) Reducing racial disparities in access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

(6) Providing school employees and students with education and training in early identification, intervention, and referral of students with mental health and substance use disorder needs.

(7) Strategies and programs for youth with signs of behavioral or emotional problems or substance misuse who are at risk of, or have had, contact with the child welfare or juvenile justice system.

(8) Integrated youth mental health and substance use disorder programming.

(f) “Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate intervention” refers to a program that creates critical linkages with community-based organizations, including, but not limited to, clinics licensed or operated under subdivision (a) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code and clinics exempt from clinic licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the

Health and Safety Code. The community-based organizations include facilities and providers licensed or certified by the State Department of Health Care Services, including, but not limited to, residential substance use disorder facilities licensed pursuant to Section 11834.01 of the Health and Safety Code or certified pursuant to Section 11830.1 of the Health and Safety Code and narcotic treatment programs licensed pursuant to Section 11839 of the Health and Safety Code. Community-based organizations may also include those organizations that provide community-defined evidence practices.

(1) “Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate” means the ability to reach underserved cultural populations and address specific barriers related to racial, ethnic, cultural, language, gender, age, economic, or other disparities in mental health and substance use disorder treatment services access, quality, and outcomes.

(2) “Underserved cultural populations” means those who are unlikely to seek help from providers of traditional mental health and substance use disorder services because of stigma, lack of knowledge, or other barriers, including members of ethnically and racially diverse communities, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and veterans, across their lifespans.

(g) “Strategies targeting the mental health and substance use disorder needs of older adults” means, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Outreach and engagement strategies that target caregivers, victims of elder abuse, and individuals who live alone.

(2) Outreach to older adults who are isolated.

(3) Programs for early identification of mental health disorders and substance use disorders.

(h) “Community-defined evidence practices” is defined as an alternative or complement to evidence-based practices, that offer culturally anchored interventions that reflect the values, practices, histories, and lived-experiences of the communities they serve. These practices come from the community and the organizations that serve them and are found to yield positive results as determined by community consensus over time.

(i) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Service Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 54. Section 5840.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5840.7. (a) On or before January 1, 2020, the commission shall establish priorities for the use of prevention and early intervention funds. These priorities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Childhood trauma prevention and early intervention to deal with the early origins of mental health needs.

(2) Early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention, and mood disorder and suicide prevention programming that occurs across the lifespan.

(3) Youth outreach and engagement strategies that target secondary school and transition age youth, with a priority on partnership with college mental health programs.

(4) Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention.

(5) Strategies targeting the mental health needs of older adults.

(6) Other programs the commission identifies, with stakeholder participation, that are proven effective in achieving, and are reflective of, the goals stated in Section 5840.

(b) On or before January 1, 2020, the commission shall develop a statewide strategy for monitoring implementation of this part, including enhancing public understanding of prevention and early intervention and creating metrics for assessing the effectiveness of how prevention and early intervention funds are used and the outcomes that are achieved. The commission shall analyze and monitor the established metrics using existing data, if available, and shall propose new data collection and reporting strategies, if necessary.

(c) The commission shall establish a strategy for technical assistance, support, and evaluation to support the successful implementation of the objectives, metrics, data collection, and reporting strategy.

(d) (1) The portion of funds in the county plan relating to prevention and early intervention shall focus on the established priorities, and shall be allocated, as determined by the county, with stakeholder input. A county may include other priorities, as determined through the stakeholder process, either in place of, or in addition to, the established priorities. If the county chooses to include other programs, the plan shall include a description of why those programs are included and metrics by which the effectiveness of those programs is to be measured.

(2) Counties may act jointly to meet the requirements of this section.

(e) If the commission requires additional resources for these purposes, it may prepare a proposal for consideration by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

(f) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 55. Section 5840.7 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5840.7. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, shall establish priorities for the use of early intervention

funds. These priorities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Childhood trauma early intervention to deal with the early origins of mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs, including strategies focused on eligible children and youth experiencing homelessness, justice-involved children and youth, child welfare-involved children and youth with a history of trauma, and other populations at risk of developing a mental health disorder or condition as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 14184.402 or substance use disorders. Childhood trauma early intervention services shall not be limited to individuals enrolled in the Medi-Cal program.

(2) Early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention and mood disorder programming that occurs across the lifespan.

(3) Outreach and engagement strategies that target early childhood 0 to 5 years of age, inclusive, out-of-school youth, and secondary school youth. Partnerships with community-based organizations and college mental health and substance use disorder programs may be utilized to implement the strategies.

(4) Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate interventions.

(5) Strategies targeting the mental health and substance use disorder needs of older adults.

(6) Strategies targeting the mental health needs of eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892, who are 0 to 5 years of age, including, but not limited to, infant and early childhood mental health consultation.

(7) Strategies to advance equity and reduce disparities.

(8) Programs that include community-defined evidence practices and evidence-based practices and mental health and substance use disorder treatment services similar to those provided under other programs that are effective in preventing mental illness and substance use disorders from becoming severe and components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated severe mental illness and substance use disorders to assist people in quickly regaining productive lives.

(9) Other programs the State Department of Health Care Services identifies that are proven effective in preventing mental illness and substance use disorders from becoming severe and disabling, consistent with Section 5840.

(10) Strategies to address the needs of individuals at high risk of crisis.

(b) (1) (A) The portion of funds in the county plan relating to early intervention shall focus on the established priorities and shall be allocated as determined by the county with stakeholder input.

(B) (i) A county may include other priorities, as determined through the stakeholder process, in addition to the established priorities.

(ii) If a county chooses to include other programs, the plan shall include a description of why those programs are included and metrics by which the effectiveness of those programs is to be measured.

(2) Counties may act jointly to meet the requirements of this section.

(c) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 56. Section 5840.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5840.8. (a) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the commission may implement this chapter without taking regulatory action until regulations are adopted. The commission may use information notices or related communications to implement this chapter.

(b) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 57. Section 5845 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5845. (a) The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is hereby established to oversee Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act; Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820), Human Resources, Education, and Training Programs; Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Innovative Programs; Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Prevention and Early Intervention Programs; and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), the Children's Mental Health Services Act. The commission shall replace the advisory committee established pursuant to Section 5814. The commission shall consist of 16 voting members as follows:

(1) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.

(2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee.

(3) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Human Services, or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate.

(4) The Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Health or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(5) Two persons with a severe mental illness, a family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness, a family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness, a physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment, a mental health professional, a county sheriff, a superintendent of a school district, a representative of a labor organization,

a representative of an employer with less than 500 employees, a representative of an employer with more than 500 employees, and a representative of a health care service plan or insurer, all appointed by the Governor. In making appointments, the Governor shall seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness. At least one person appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall have a background in auditing.

(b) Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(c) The term of each member shall be three years, to be staggered so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

(d) In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission may do all of the following:

(1) Meet at least once each quarter at any time and location convenient to the public as it may deem appropriate. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

(2) Within the limit of funds allocated for these purposes, pursuant to the laws and regulations governing state civil service, employ staff, including any clerical, legal, and technical assistance necessary. The commission shall administer its operations separate and apart from the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency.

(3) Establish technical advisory committees, such as a committee of consumers and family members.

(4) Employ all other appropriate strategies necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately perform its duties and exercise the powers expressly granted, notwithstanding any authority expressly granted to an officer or employee of state government.

(5) Enter into contracts.

(6) Obtain data and information from the State Department of Health Care Services, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, or other state or local entities that receive Mental Health Services Act funds, for the commission to utilize in its oversight, review, training and technical assistance, accountability, and evaluation capacity regarding projects and programs supported with Mental Health Services Act funds.

(7) Participate in the joint state-county decisionmaking process, as contained in Section 4061, for training, technical assistance, and regulatory resources to meet the mission and goals of the state's mental health system.

(8) Develop strategies to overcome stigma and discrimination, and accomplish all other objectives of Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and the other provisions of the Mental Health Services Act.

(9) At any time, advise the Governor or the Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness.

(10) If the commission identifies a critical issue related to the performance of a county mental health program, it may refer the issue to the State Department of Health Care Services for consideration pursuant to the department's authority in Section 5655.

(11) Assist in providing technical assistance to accomplish the purposes of the Mental Health Services Act, Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California.

(12) Work in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, in designing a comprehensive joint plan for a coordinated evaluation of client outcomes in the community-based mental health system, including, but not limited to, parts listed in subdivision (a). The California Health and Human Services Agency shall lead this comprehensive joint plan effort.

(13) Establish a framework and voluntary standard for mental health in the workplace that serves to reduce mental health stigma, increase public, employee, and employer awareness of the recovery goals of the Mental Health Services Act, and provide guidance to California's employer community to put in place strategies and programs, as determined by the commission, to support the mental health and wellness of employees. The commission shall consult with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or its designee to develop the standard.

(e) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 58. Section 5845 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5845. (a) *The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is hereby established to promote transformational change in California's behavioral health system through research, evaluation and tracking outcomes, and other strategies to assess and report progress. The commission shall use this information and analyses to inform the commission's grant making, identify key policy issues and emerging best practices, provide technical assistance and training, promote high-quality programs implemented, and advise the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to the Behavioral Health Services Act and related components of California's behavioral health system. For this purpose, the commission shall collaborate with the California Health and Human Services Agency, its departments and other state entities.*

(b) (1) The commission shall replace the advisory committee established pursuant to Section 5814.

(2) The commission shall consist of 27 voting members as follows:

(A) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.

(B) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee.

(C) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Human Services, or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate, or their designee.

(D) The Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Health, the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Human Services, or another Member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly, or their designee.

(E) (i) The following individuals, all appointed by the Governor:

(I) Two persons who have or have had a mental health disorder.

(II) Two persons who have or have had a substance use disorder.

(III) A family member of an adult or older adult who has or has had a mental health disorder.

(IV) One person who is 25 years of age or younger and has or has had a mental health disorder, substance use disorder, or cooccurring disorder.

(V) A family member of an adult or older adult who has or has had a substance use disorder.

(VI) A family member of a child or youth who has or has had a mental health disorder.

(VII) A family member of a child or youth who has or has had a substance use disorder.

(VIII) A current or former county behavioral health director.

(IX) A physician specializing in substance use disorder treatment, including the provision of medications for addiction treatment.

(X) A mental health professional.

(XI) A professional with expertise in housing and homelessness.

(XII) A county sheriff.

(XIII) A superintendent of a school district.

(XIV) A representative of a labor organization.

(XV) A representative of an employer with less than 500 employees.

(XVI) A representative of an employer with more than 500 employees.

(XVII) A representative of a health care service plan or insurer.

(XVIII) A representative of an aging or disability organization.

(XIX) A person with knowledge and experience in community-defined evidence practices and reducing behavioral health disparities.

(XX) A representative of a children and youth organization.

(XXI) A veteran or a representative of a veterans organization.

(ii) In making appointments, the Governor shall seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness or substance use disorder.

(c) Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The term of each member shall be three years, to be staggered so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.

(e) (1) The commission shall have an Executive Director.

(2) The Executive Director will be responsible for management over the administrative, fiscal, and program performance of the commission.

(3) The Executive Director shall be selected by the commission.

(f) In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission may do all of the following:

(1) (A) Meet at least once each quarter at a time and location convenient to the public as it may deem appropriate.

(B) All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

(2) Within the limit of funds allocated for these purposes, pursuant to the laws and regulations governing state civil service, employ staff, including clerical, legal, and technical assistance, as necessary.

(3) The commission shall administer its operations separate and apart from the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Health and Human Services Agency.

(4) Establish technical advisory committees, such as a committee of consumers and family members, and a reducing disparities committee focusing on demographic, geographic, and other communities. The commission may provide pertinent information gained from those committees to relevant state agencies and departments, including, but not limited to, the California Health and Humans Services Agency and its departments.

(5) Employ all other appropriate strategies necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and adequately perform its duties and exercise the powers expressly granted, notwithstanding authority expressly granted to an officer or employee of state government.

(6) Enter into contracts.

(7) Make reasonable requests for data and information to the State Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Health Care Access and Information, the State Department of Public Health, or other state and local entities that receive Behavioral Health Services Act funds. These entities shall respond in a timely manner and provide information and data in their possession that the commission deems necessary for the purposes of carrying out its responsibilities.

(8) Participate in the joint state-county decisionmaking process, as described in Section 4061, for training, technical assistance, and regulatory resources to meet the mission and goals of the state's mental health system.

(9) Identify best practices to overcome stigma and discrimination, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health.

(10) At any time, advise the Governor or the Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness or substance use disorder.

(11) If the commission identifies a critical issue related to the performance of a county mental health program, it may refer the issue to the State Department of Health Care Services pursuant to Section 5655 or 5963.04.

(12) Provide technical assistance to counties on implementation planning, training, and capacity building investments as defined by the State Department of Health Care Services and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California. Technical assistance may also include innovative behavioral health models of care and innovative promising practices pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892. Technical assistance may also include compiling and publishing a list of innovative behavioral health models of care programs and promising practices for each of the programs set forth in subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.

(13) Work in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services to define the parameters of a report that includes recommendations for improving and standardizing promising practices across the state based on the technical assistance provided to counties as specified in paragraph (12). The commission shall prepare and publish the report on its internet website. In formulating this report, the commission shall prioritize the perspectives of the California behavioral health community through a robust public engagement process with a focus on priority populations and diverse communities.

(14) Establish a framework and voluntary standard for mental health in the workplace that serves to reduce mental health stigma, increase public, employee, and employer awareness of the recovery goals of the Mental Health Services Act, and provide guidance to California's employer community to put in place strategies and programs, as determined by the

commission, to support the mental health and wellness of employees. The commission shall consult with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or its designee to develop the standard.

(g) (1) The commission shall work in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services and the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, to write a report that includes recommendations for improving and standardizing promising practices for Behavioral Health Services Act programs.

(2) The commission shall complete the report and provide a written report on its internet website no later than January 1, 2030, and every three years thereafter.

(h) For purposes of this section, “substance use disorder” shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(i) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 59. Section 5845.1 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5845.1. (a) (1) The Behavioral Health Services Act Innovation Partnership Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury.

(2) The fund shall be administered by the state for the purposes of funding a grant program administered by the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission pursuant to this section and subdivision (f) of Section 5892.

(b) (1) The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission shall award grants to private, public, and nonprofit partners to promote development of innovative mental health and substance use disorder programs and practices.

(2) The innovative mental health and substance use disorder programs and practices shall be designed for the following purposes:

(A) Improving Behavioral Health Services Act programs and practices funded pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892 for the following groups:

(i) Underserved populations.

(ii) Low-income populations.

(iii) Communities impacted by other behavioral health disparities.

(iv) Other populations, as determined by the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

(B) Meeting statewide Behavioral Health Services Act goals and objectives.

(3) The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, in determining the allowable uses of the funds, shall consult with the California Health and Human Services Agency and the

State Department of Health Care Services. If the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission utilizes funding for population-based prevention or workforce innovation grants, the commission shall consult with the State Department of Public Health for population-based prevention innovations and the Department of Health Care Access and Information for workforce innovations.

(c) (1) The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission shall submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2030, and every three years thereafter. The report shall cover the three-fiscal-year period immediately preceding the date of submission.

(2) The report shall include the practices funded pursuant to this section and the extent to which they accomplished the purposes specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (b).

(3) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

SEC. 62. Section 5846 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5846. (a) The commission shall adopt regulations for programs and expenditures pursuant to Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), for innovative programs, and Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), for prevention and early intervention.

(b) Any regulations adopted by the department pursuant to Section 5898 shall be consistent with the commission’s regulations.

(c) The commission may provide technical assistance to any county mental health plan as needed to address concerns or recommendations of the commission or when local programs could benefit from technical assistance for improvement of their plans.

(d) The commission shall ensure that the perspective and participation of diverse community members reflective of California populations and others suffering from severe mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations.

(e) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 63. Section 5847 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5847. Integrated Plans for Prevention, Innovation, and System of Care Services.

(a) Each county mental health program shall prepare and submit a three-year program and expenditure plan, and annual updates, adopted by the county board of supervisors, to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the State Department of Health Care Services within 30 days after adoption.

(b) The three-year program and expenditure plan shall be based on available unspent funds and estimated revenue allocations provided by the state and in accordance with established stakeholder engagement and planning requirements, as required in Section 5848. The three-year program and expenditure plan and annual updates shall include all of the following:

(1) A program for prevention and early intervention in accordance with Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840).

(2) A program for services to children in accordance with Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), to include a program pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 or provide substantial evidence that it is not feasible to establish a wraparound program in that county.

(3) A program for services to adults and seniors in accordance with Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800).

(4) A program for innovations in accordance with Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830).

(5) A program for technological needs and capital facilities needed to provide services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850). All plans for proposed facilities with restrictive settings shall demonstrate that the needs of the people to be served cannot be met in a less restrictive or more integrated setting, such as permanent supportive housing.

(6) Identification of shortages in personnel to provide services pursuant to the above programs and the additional assistance needed from the education and training programs established pursuant to Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820).

(7) Establishment and maintenance of a prudent reserve to ensure the county program will continue to be able to serve children, adults, and seniors that it is currently serving pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act, Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), the Children's Mental Health Services Act, during years in which revenues for the Mental Health Services Fund are below recent averages adjusted by changes in the state population and the California Consumer Price Index.

(8) Certification by the county behavioral health director, which ensures that the county has complied with all pertinent regulations, laws, and statutes of the Mental Health Services Act, including stakeholder participation and nonsupplantation requirements.

(9) Certification by the county behavioral health director and by the county auditor-controller that the county has complied with any fiscal accountability requirements as directed by the State Department of Health Care Services, and that all expenditures are

consistent with the requirements of the Mental Health Services Act.

(c) The programs established pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (b) shall include services to address the needs of transition age youth 16 to 25 years of age, *inclusive*. In implementing this subdivision, county mental health programs shall consider the needs of transition age foster youth.

(d) Each year, the State Department of Health Care Services shall inform the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission of the methodology used for revenue allocation to the counties.

(e) Each county mental health program shall prepare expenditure plans pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for adults and seniors, Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830) for innovative programs, Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840) for prevention and early intervention programs, and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for services for children, and updates to the plans developed pursuant to this section. Each expenditure update shall indicate the number of children, adults, and seniors to be served pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section ~~5800~~; 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section ~~5850~~; 5850) and the cost per person. The expenditure update shall include utilization of unspent funds allocated in the previous year and the proposed expenditure for the same purpose.

(f) A county mental health program shall include an allocation of funds from a reserve established pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) for services pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (b) in years in which the allocation of funds for services pursuant to subdivision (e) are not adequate to continue to serve the same number of individuals as the county had been serving in the previous fiscal year.

(g) The department shall post on its internet website the three-year program and expenditure plans submitted by every county pursuant to subdivision (a) in a timely manner.

(h) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a county that is unable to complete and submit a three-year program and expenditure plan or annual update for the 2020–21 or 2021–22 fiscal years due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency may extend the effective timeframe of its currently approved three-year plan or annual update to include the 2020–21 and 2021–22 fiscal years. The county shall submit a three-year program and expenditure plan or annual update to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the State Department of Health Care Services by July 1, 2022.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" means the federal Public Health Emergency declaration made pursuant to Section 247d of Title 42 of the United States Code on January 30, 2020, entitled "Determination that a Public Health

Emergency Exists Nationwide as the Result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus,” and any renewal of that declaration.

(i) Notwithstanding paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) and subdivision (f), a county may, during the 2020–21 and 2021–22 fiscal years, use funds from its prudent reserve for prevention and early intervention programs created in accordance with Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840) and for services to persons with severe mental illnesses pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for the children’s system of care and Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for the adult and older adult system of care. These services may include housing assistance, as defined in Section 5892.5, to the target population specified in Section 5600.3.

(j) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department, without taking any further regulatory action, may implement, interpret, or make specific subdivisions (h) and (i) of this section and subdivision (i) of Section 5892 by means of all-county letters or other similar instructions.

(k) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 64. Section 5848 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5848. (a) Each three-year program and expenditure plan and update shall be developed with local stakeholders, including adults and seniors with severe mental illness, families of children, adults, and seniors with severe mental illness, providers of services, law enforcement agencies, education, social services agencies, veterans, representatives from veterans organizations, providers of alcohol and drug services, health care organizations, and other important interests. Counties shall demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on mental health policy, program planning, and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations. A draft plan and update shall be prepared and circulated for review and comment for at least 30 days to representatives of stakeholder interests and any interested party who has requested a copy of the draft plans.

(b) The mental health board established pursuant to Section 5604 shall conduct a public hearing on the draft three-year program and expenditure plan and annual updates at the close of the 30-day comment period required by subdivision (a). Each adopted three-year program and expenditure plan and update shall include any substantive written recommendations for revisions. The adopted three-year program and expenditure plan or update shall summarize and analyze the recommended revisions. The mental health board shall review the adopted plan or update and

make recommendations to the local mental health agency or local behavioral health agency, as applicable, for revisions. The local mental health agency or local behavioral health agency, as applicable, shall provide an annual report of written explanations to the local governing body and the State Department of Health Care Services for any substantive recommendations made by the local mental health board that are not included in the final plan or update.

(c) The plans shall include reports on the achievement of performance outcomes for services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) funded by the Mental Health Services Fund and established jointly by the State Department of Health Care Services and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, in collaboration with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California.

(d) Mental health services provided pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) shall be included in the review of program performance by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council required by paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 5772 and in the local mental health board’s review and comment on the performance outcome data required by paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 5604.2.

(e) The department shall annually post on its internet website a summary of the performance outcomes reports submitted by counties if clearly and separately identified by counties as the achievement of performance outcomes pursuant to subdivision (c).

(f) For purposes of this section, “substantive recommendations made by the local mental health board” means any recommendation that is brought before the board and approved by a majority vote of the membership present at a public hearing of the local mental health board that has established its quorum.

(g) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 73. Section 5852.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5852.5. The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission shall review those counties that have been awarded funds to implement a comprehensive system for the delivery of mental health services to children with serious emotional disturbance and to their families or foster families to determine compliance with either of the following:

(a) The total estimated cost avoidance in all of the following categories shall equal or exceed the applications for funding award moneys:

- (1) Group home costs paid by Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program.
- (2) Children and adolescent state hospital and acute inpatient programs.
- (3) Nonpublic school residential placement costs.
- (4) Juvenile justice reincarcerations.
- (5) Other short- and long-term savings in public funds resulting from the applications for funding award moneys.
- (b) If the department determines that the total cost avoidance listed in subdivision (a) does not equal or exceed applications for funding award amounts, the department shall determine that the county that has been awarded funding shall achieve substantial compliance with all of the following goals:
- (1) Total cost avoidance in the categories listed in subdivision (a) to exceed 50 percent of the applications for funding award moneys.
- (2) A 20-percent reduction in out-of-county ordered placements of juvenile justice wards and social service dependents.
- (3) A statistically significant reduction in the rate of recidivism by juvenile offenders.
- (4) A 25-percent reduction in the rate of state hospitalization of minors from placements of special education pupils.
- (5) A 10-percent reduction in out-of-county nonpublic school residential placements of special education pupils.
- (6) Allow at least 50 percent of children at risk of imminent placement served by the intensive in-home crisis treatment programs, which are wholly or partially funded by applications for funding award moneys, to remain at home at least six months.
- (7) Statistically significant improvement in school attendance and academic performance of seriously emotionally disturbed special education pupils treated in day treatment programs, which are wholly or partially funded by applications for funding award moneys.
- (8) Statistically significant increases in services provided in nonclinic settings among agencies.
- (9) Increase in ethnic minority and gender access to services proportionate to the percentage of these groups in the county's school-age population.
- (c) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.*
- SEC. 74. Section 5852.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:
- 5852.5. *The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission,*

shall review those counties that have been awarded funds to implement a comprehensive system for the delivery of mental health services to children with a serious emotional disturbance and to their families or foster families to determine compliance with either of the following:

(a) The total estimated cost avoidance in all of the following categories shall equal or exceed the applications for funding award moneys:

(1) Group home costs paid by Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program.

(2) Children and adolescent state hospital and acute inpatient programs.

(3) Nonpublic school residential placement costs.

(4) Juvenile justice reincarcerations.

(5) Other short- and long-term savings in public funds resulting from the applications for funding award moneys.

(b) If the department determines that the total cost avoidance listed in subdivision (a) does not equal or exceed applications for funding award amounts, the department shall determine that the county that has been awarded funding shall achieve substantial compliance with all of the following goals:

(1) Total cost avoidance in the categories listed in subdivision (a) to exceed 50 percent of the applications for funding award moneys.

(2) A 20-percent reduction in out-of-county ordered placements of juvenile justice wards and social service dependents.

(3) A statistically significant reduction in the rate of recidivism by juvenile offenders.

(4) A 25-percent reduction in the rate of state hospitalization of minors from placements of special education pupils.

(5) A 10-percent reduction in out-of-county nonpublic school residential placements of special education pupils.

(6) Allow at least 50 percent of children at risk of imminent placement served by the intensive in-home crisis treatment programs, which are wholly or partially funded by applications for funding award moneys, to remain at home at least six months.

(7) Statistically significant improvement in school attendance and academic performance of seriously emotionally disturbed special education pupils treated in day treatment programs that are wholly or partially funded by applications for funding award moneys.

(8) Statistically significant increases in services provided in nonclinic settings among agencies.

(9) Increase in ethnic minority and gender access to services proportionate to the percentage of these groups in the county's schoolage population.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act

are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 75. Section 5868 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5868. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services shall establish service standards that ensure that children in the target population are identified and receive needed and appropriate services from qualified staff in the least restrictive environment.

(b) The standards shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Providing a comprehensive assessment and treatment plan for each target population client to be served, and developing programs and services that will meet their needs and facilitate client outcome goals.

(2) Providing for full participation of the family in all aspects of assessment, case planning, and treatment.

(3) Providing methods of assessment and services to meet the cultural, linguistic, and special needs of minorities in the target population.

(4) Providing for staff with the cultural background and linguistic skills necessary to remove barriers to mental health services resulting from a limited ability to speak English or from cultural differences.

(5) Providing mental health case management for all target population clients in, or being considered for, out-of-home placement.

(6) Providing mental health services in the natural environment of the child to the extent feasible and appropriate.

(c) The responsibility of the case managers shall be to ensure that each child receives the following services:

(1) A comprehensive mental health assessment.

(2) Case planning with all appropriate interagency participation.

(3) Linkage with all appropriate mental health services.

(4) Service plan monitoring.

(5) Client advocacy to ensure the provision of needed services.

(d) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 76. Section 5868 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5868. (a) *The State Department of Health Care Services shall establish service standards so that children and youth in the target population are identified and receive needed and appropriate services from qualified staff in the least restrictive environment to correct or ameliorate their behavioral health condition. This section shall not apply to services covered by the Medi-Cal program and services covered by a health care service plan or other insurance coverage.*

(b) *These standards shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:*

(1) *For services funded pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892, the county may consult with the stakeholders listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5963.03.*

(2) (A) *Outreach to families with a child or youth with a serious emotional disturbance or a substance use disorder to provide coordination and access to behavioral health services, medications, housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830, and supportive services as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5887.*

(B) *Service planning shall include evaluation strategies that shall consider cultural, linguistic, gender, age, and special needs of the target populations.*

(C) *Provision shall be made for a workforce with the cultural background and linguistic skills necessary to remove barriers to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services due to limited-English-speaking ability and cultural differences.*

(D) *Recipients of outreach services may include families, the public, primary care physicians, hospitals inclusive of emergency departments, behavioral health urgent care, and others who are likely to come into contact with individuals who may be suffering from either an untreated serious emotional disturbance or substance use disorder, or both, who would likely become homeless or incarcerated if the illness continued to be untreated for a substantial period of time.*

(3) *Provision for services for populations with identified disparities in behavioral health outcomes.*

(4) *Provision for full participation of the family in all aspects of assessment, service planning, and treatment, including, but not limited to, family support and consultation services, parenting support and consultation services, and peer support or self-help group support, where appropriate for the individual.*

(5) *Provision for clients who have been suffering from an untreated serious emotional disturbance or substance use disorder, or both, for less than one year and who do not require the full range of services but are at risk of becoming homeless or justice involved unless a comprehensive individual and family support services plan is implemented. These clients shall be served in a manner that is designed to meet their needs, including housing for clients that is immediate, transitional, permanent, or all of these.*

(6) *Provision for services to be client-directed, to use psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery principles, and to be integrated with other services.*

(7) *Provision for psychiatric and psychological collaboration in overall service planning.*

(8) *Provision for services specifically directed to children and youth experiencing first episode psychosis.*

(9) *Provision for services for frequent users of behavioral health urgent care, crisis stabilization units, and hospitals or emergency departments as the primary*

resource for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

(10) Provision for services to meet the special needs of clients who are physically disabled, clients who are intellectually or developmentally disabled, or persons of American Indian or Alaska Native descent.

(c) Each child or youth shall have a clearly designated personal services coordinator or case manager who may be part of a multidisciplinary treatment team that is responsible for providing case management services. The personal services coordinator may be a person or entity formally designated as primarily responsible for coordinating the services accessed by the client. The client shall be provided information on how to contact their designated person or entity.

(d) A personal services coordinator shall perform all of the following:

(1) Conduct a comprehensive assessment and periodic reassessment of a client's needs. The assessment shall include the following:

(A) Taking the client's history.

(B) Identifying the individual's needs, including reviewing available records and gathering information from other sources, including behavioral health service providers, medical providers, family members, social workers, and others needed to form a complete assessment.

(C) Assessing the client's living arrangements, employment or education status, and training needs.

(2) Plan for services using information collected through the assessment. The planning process shall do all of the following:

(A) Identify the client's goals and the behavioral health, supportive, medical, educational, social, prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, housing, or other community services needed to assist the client to reach their goals.

(B) Include active participation of the client and others in the development of the client's goals.

(C) Identify a course of action to address the client's needs.

(D) Address the transition of care when a client has achieved their goals.

(3) Assist the client in accessing needed behavioral health, supportive, medical, educational, social, prevocational, vocational, rehabilitative, housing, or other community services.

(4) Coordinate the services the county furnishes to the client between settings of care, including appropriate discharge planning for short-term hospital and institutional stays.

(5) Coordinate the services the county furnishes to the client with the services the client receives from managed care organizations, the Medicaid fee-for-service delivery system, other human services agencies, and community and social support providers, including local educational agencies.

(6) Ensure that, in the course of coordinating care, the client's privacy is protected in accordance with all federal and state privacy laws.

(e) The county shall ensure that each provider furnishing services to clients maintains and shares, as appropriate, client health records in accordance with professional standards.

(f) The service planning process shall ensure children and youth receive age-appropriate, gender-appropriate, and culturally appropriate services or appropriate services based on a characteristic listed or defined in Section 11135 of the Government Code, to the extent feasible, that are designed to enable recipients to:

(1) (A) Live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible in the local community and to live in a supportive housing environment that strives for family reunification.

(B) Rejoin or return to a home they had previously maintained with a family member or in shared housing environment that is supportive of their recovery and stabilization.

(2) Engage in the highest level of educational or productive activity appropriate to their age, abilities, and experience.

(3) Create and maintain a support system consisting of friends, family, and participation in community activities.

(4) Access necessary physical health care and maintain the best possible physical health.

(5) Reduce or eliminate serious antisocial or criminal behavior and thereby reduce or eliminate their contact with the justice system.

(6) Reduce or eliminate the distress caused by the symptoms of either mental illness or substance use disorder, or both.

(7) Utilize trauma-informed approaches to reduce trauma and avoid retraumatization.

(g) (1) (A) The client's clinical record shall describe the service array that meets the requirements of subdivisions (d) and (f) and, to the extent applicable to the individual, the requirements of subdivision (a) and (b).

(B) The State Department of Health Care Services may develop and revise documentation standards for service planning to be consistent with the standards developed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (h) of Section 14184.402.

(2) Documentation of the service planning process in the client's clinical record pursuant to paragraph (1) may fulfill the documentation requirements for both the Medi-Cal program and this section.

(h) For purposes of this section, "behavioral health services" shall have the meaning as defined in Section 5892.

(i) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(j) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 77. Section 5878.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5878.1. (a) It is the intent of this article to establish programs that ensure services will be provided to severely mentally ill children as defined in Section 5878.2 and that they be part of the children's system of care established pursuant to this part. It is the intent of this act that services provided under this chapter to severely mentally ill children are accountable, developed in partnership with youth and their families, culturally competent, and individualized to the strengths and needs of each child and ~~his or her~~ *their* family.

(b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any services to be provided to a minor without the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian beyond those already authorized by existing statute.

(c) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 78. Section 5878.1 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5878.1. (a) *It is the intent of this article to establish programs that ensure services will be provided to eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892, and that they are part of the children and youth system of care established pursuant to this part.*

(b) It is the intent of this act that services provided under this chapter are accountable, developed in partnership with youth and their families and child welfare agencies, are culturally competent, and individualized to the strengths and needs of each child and their family.

(c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a service to be provided to a minor without the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian beyond those already authorized by existing statute.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 79. Section 5878.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5878.2. (a) For purposes of this article, ~~severely mentally ill children~~ *"children with a serious emotional disturbance"* means minors under the age of 18 years of age who meet the criteria set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 5600.3.

(b) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become

inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 80. Section 5878.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5878.3. (a) Subject to the availability of funds as determined pursuant to Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 5890) of this division, county mental health programs shall offer services to severely mentally ill children for whom services under any other public or private insurance or other mental health or entitlement program is inadequate or unavailable. Other entitlement programs include but are not limited to mental health services available pursuant to Medi-Cal, child welfare, and special education programs. The funding shall cover only those portions of care that cannot be paid for with public or private insurance, other mental health funds or other entitlement programs.

(b) Funding shall be at sufficient levels to ensure that counties can provide each child served all of the necessary services set forth in the applicable treatment plan developed in accordance with this part, including services where appropriate and necessary to prevent an out of home placement, such as services pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9.

(c) The State Department of Health Care Services shall contract with county mental health programs for the provision of services under this article in the manner set forth in Section 5897.

(d) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 81. Section 5878.3 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5878.3. (a) (1) (A) *Counties shall use funds distributed pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 to offer services to eligible children and youth, as defined in of Section 5892, for whom services under other public or private insurance or other mental health, substance use disorder, or other entitlement program is inadequate or unavailable. Counties are not required to spend funds for services pursuant to this part from any other source, including funds deposited in the mental health account of the local health and welfare fund.*

(B) Other entitlement programs include, but are not limited to, mental health and substance use disorder treatment services available pursuant to Medi-Cal, child welfare, and special education programs.

(C) The funding shall cover only those portions of care that cannot be paid for with public or private insurance, other mental health and substance use disorder funds, or other entitlement programs.

(2) To maximize federal financial participation in furtherance of subdivision (d) of Section 5890, a county shall submit claims for reimbursement to the State

Department of Health Care Services in accordance with applicable Medi-Cal rules and procedures for a behavioral health service or supportive service eligible for reimbursement pursuant to Title XIX or XXI of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396, et seq. and 1397aa, et seq.) when such service is paid, in whole or in part, using funds from the Behavioral Health Services Fund established pursuant to Section 5890.

(3) (A) To maximize funding from other sources, a county shall seek reimbursement for a behavioral health service, supportive service, housing intervention, or other related activity provided pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892 that is covered by, or can be paid from, another available funding source, including other mental health funds, substance use disorder funds, public and private insurance, and other local, state, and federal funds. This paragraph does not require counties to exhaust other funding sources before using behavioral health services fund moneys to pay for a service or related activity.

(B) A county shall make a good faith effort to enter into contracts or single case agreements with health care service plans and disability insurance plans, pursuant to Section 1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code, as a contracted provider.

(C) A county shall also submit requests for prior authorization for services, request letters of agreement for payment as an out-of-network provider, and pursue other means to obtain reimbursement in accordance with state and federal laws.

(4) (A) A county may report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as appropriate, complaints about a health plan's or a health insurer's failure to make a good faith effort to contract or enter into a single case agreement with the county.

(B) A county may also report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, respectively, a failure by a health plan or insurer to timely reimburse the county for services the plan or insurer must cover as required by state or federal law, including, but not limited to, Sections 1374.72 and 1374.721 of the Health and Safety Code and Sections 10144.5 and 10144.52 of the Insurance Code.

(C) Upon receipt of a complaint from a county, the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as applicable, shall timely investigate the complaint.

(b) (1) Funding shall be at sufficient levels to ensure counties can provide each child served all of the services determined to be necessary during the service planning process in accordance with this part, including services where appropriate and necessary to prevent an out of home placement, such as services pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9.

(2) A county may use this funding to provide services to address first episode psychosis.

(c) The State Department of Health Care Services shall contract with county behavioral health programs for the provision of services under this article in the manner set forth in Section 5897.

(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Behavioral health services" shall have the meaning as defined in Section 5892.

(2) "Substance use disorder treatment services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(3) "Supportive services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5887.

(e) This act shall not be construed to modify or reduce a health plan's obligations under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975.

(f) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 86. Part 4.1 (commencing with Section 5887) is added to Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

PART 4.1. FULL-SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

5887. (a) Each county shall establish and administer a full service partnership program that include the following services:

(1) Mental health services, supportive services, and substance use disorder treatment services.

(2) Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment fidelity, Individual Placement and Support model of Supported Employment, high fidelity wraparound, or other evidence-based services and treatment models, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services. Counties with a population of less than 200,000 may request an exemption from these requirements. Exemption requests shall be subject to approval by the State Department of Health Care Services. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California on reasonable criteria for those requests and a timely and efficient exemption process.

(3) Assertive field-based initiation for substance use disorder treatment services, including the provision of medications for addiction treatment, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services.

(4) Outpatient behavioral health services, either clinic or field based, necessary for the ongoing evaluation and stabilization of an enrolled individual.

(5) Ongoing engagement services necessary to maintain enrolled individuals in their treatment plan inclusive of clinical and nonclinical services, including services to support maintaining housing.

(6) *Other evidence-based services and treatment models, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services.*

(7) *The service planning process pursuant to Sections 5806 or 5868 and all services identified during the applicable process.*

(8) *Housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830.*

(b) (1) (A) *Full-service partnership services shall be provided pursuant to a whole-person approach that is trauma informed, age appropriate, and in partnership with families or an individual's natural supports.*

(B) *These services shall be provided in a streamlined and coordinated manner so as to reduce any barriers to services.*

(2) *Full-service partnership services shall support the individual in the recovery process, reduce health disparities, and be provided for the length of time identified during the service planning process pursuant to Sections 5806 and 5868.*

(c) *Full-service partnership programs shall employ community-defined evidence practices, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services.*

(d) (1) *Full-service partnership programs shall enroll eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, who meet the priority population criteria specified in subdivision (c) of Section 5892 and other criteria, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services.*

(2) *Full-service partnership programs shall enroll eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892.*

(e) *Full-service partnership programs shall have an established standard of care with levels based on an individual's acuity and criteria for step-down into the least intensive level of care, as specified by the State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, counties, providers, and other stakeholders.*

(f) *All behavioral health services, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 5891.5, and supportive services provided to a client enrolled in a full-service partnership shall be paid from the funds allocated pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892, subject to Section 5891.*

(g) (1) *The clinical record of each client participating in a full service partnership program shall describe all services identified during the service planning process pursuant to Sections 5806 and 5868 that are provided to the client pursuant to this section.*

(2) *The State Department of Health Care Services may develop and revise documentation standards for service planning to be consistent with the standards developed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (h) of Section 14184.402.*

(3) *Documentation of the service planning process in the client's clinical record pursuant to paragraph (1)*

may fulfill the documentation requirements for both the Medi-Cal program and this section.

(h) *For purposes of this part, the following definitions shall apply:*

(1) *"Community-defined evidence practices" means an alternative or complement to evidence-based practices, that offer culturally anchored interventions that reflect the values, practices, histories, and lived-experiences of the communities they serve. These practices come from the community and the organizations that serve them and are found to yield positive results as determined by community consensus over time.*

(2) *"Substance use disorder treatment services" means those services as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.*

(3) *"Supportive services" means those services necessary to support clients' recovery and wellness, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, linkages to needed social services, linkages to programs administered by the federal Social Security Administration, vocational and education-related services, employment assistance, including supported employment, psychosocial rehabilitation, family engagement, psychoeducation, transportation assistance, occupational therapy provided by an occupational therapist, and group and individual activities that promote a sense of purpose and community participation.*

(i) *This section shall be implemented only to the extent that funds are provided from the Behavioral Health Services Fund for purposes of this section. This section does not obligate the counties to use funds from any other source for services pursuant to this section.*

5887.1. *This part shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 87. Section 5890 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5890. (a) The Mental Health Services Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the state. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the fund are, except as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 5892, continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for the purpose of funding the following programs and other related activities as designated by other provisions of this division:

(1) Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), the Adult and Older Adult Mental Health System of Care Act.

(2) Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Innovative Programs.

(3) Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Prevention and Early Intervention Programs.

(4) Part 3.9 (commencing with Section 5849.1), No Place Like Home Program.

(5) Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), the Children's Mental Health Services Act.

(b) The establishment of this fund and any other provisions of the act establishing it or the programs funded shall not be construed to modify the obligation of health care service plans and disability insurance policies to provide coverage for mental health services, including those services required under Section 1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code, related to mental health parity. This act shall not be construed to modify the oversight duties of the Department of Managed Health Care or the duties of the Department of Insurance with respect to enforcing these obligations of plans and insurance policies.

(c) This act shall not be construed to modify or reduce the existing authority or responsibility of the State Department of Health Care Services.

(d) The State Department of Health Care Services shall seek approval of all applicable federal Medicaid approvals to maximize the availability of federal funds and eligibility of participating children, adults, and seniors for medically necessary care.

(e) Share of costs for services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) of this division, shall be determined in accordance with the Uniform Method of Determining Ability to Pay applicable to other publicly funded mental health services, unless this Uniform Method is replaced by another method of determining copayments, in which case the new method applicable to other mental health services shall be applicable to services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) of this division.

(f) (1) The Supportive Housing Program Subaccount is hereby created in the Mental Health Services Fund. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the subaccount are reserved and continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, to the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to provide funds to meet its financial obligations pursuant to any service contracts entered into pursuant to Section 5849.35. Notwithstanding any other law, including any other provision of this section, no later than the last day of each month, the Controller shall, before any transfer or expenditure from the fund for any other purpose for the following month, transfer from the Mental Health Services Fund to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount an amount that has been certified by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5849.35, but not to exceed an aggregate amount of one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year. ~~If~~ *if*, in any month *month*, the amounts in the Mental Health Services Fund are insufficient to fully transfer to the subaccount or the amounts in the subaccount are insufficient to fully pay the amount certified by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, the shortfall shall be carried over

to the next month, to be transferred by the Controller with any transfer required by the preceding sentence. Moneys in the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount shall not be loaned to the General Fund pursuant to Section 16310 or 16381 of the Government Code.

(2) Prior to the issuance of any bonds pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code, the Legislature may appropriate for transfer funds in the Mental Health Services Fund to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount in an amount up to one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year. Any amount appropriated for transfer pursuant to this paragraph and deposited in the No Place Like Home Fund shall reduce the authorized but unissued amount of bonds that the California Health Facilities Financing Authority may issue pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code by a corresponding amount. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the subaccount transferred pursuant to this paragraph are reserved and continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for transfer to the No Place Like Home Fund, to be used for purposes of Part 3.9 (commencing with Section 5849.1). The Controller shall, before any transfer or expenditure from the fund for any other purpose for the following month but after any transfer from the fund for purposes of paragraph (1), transfer moneys appropriated from the Mental Health Services Fund to the subaccount pursuant to this paragraph in equal amounts over the following 12-month period, beginning no later than 90 days after the effective date of the appropriation by the Legislature. ~~If~~ *if*, in any month *month*, the amounts in the Mental Health Services Fund are insufficient to fully transfer to the subaccount or the amounts in the subaccount are insufficient to fully pay the amount appropriated for transfer pursuant to this paragraph, the shortfall shall be carried over to the next month.

(3) The sum of any transfers described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not exceed an aggregate of one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year.

(4) Paragraph (2) shall become inoperative once any bonds authorized pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code are issued.

(g) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 88. Section 5890 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5890. (a) (1) *The Behavioral Health Services Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury.*

(2) *The fund shall be administered by the state.*

(3) *Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the fund are, except as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 5892, continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for the*

purpose of funding the programs, services, and other related activities as specified in Section 5892 and Part 3.9 (commencing with Section 5849.1), the No Place Like Home Program.

(b) (1) The establishment of this fund and other provisions of the act establishing it or the programs funded shall not be construed to modify the obligation of health care service plans and disability insurance policies to provide coverage for behavioral health services, including those services required under Section 1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code, related to mental health and substance use disorder parity.

(2) This act does not modify the oversight duties of the Department of Managed Health Care or the duties of the Department of Insurance with respect to enforcing these obligations of plans and insurance policies.

(c) This act does not modify or reduce the existing authority or responsibility of the State Department of Health Care Services.

(d) The State Department of Health Care Services shall seek approval of all applicable federal Medicaid approvals to maximize the availability of federal funds and eligibility of participating children and youth, adults, and older adults for medically necessary care.

(e) Share of costs for services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) shall be determined in accordance with the Uniform Method of Determining Ability to Pay applicable to other publicly funded mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, unless this uniform method is replaced by another method of determining copayments, in which case the new method applicable to other mental health and substance use disorder treatment services shall be applicable to services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850).

(f) (1) (A) The Supportive Housing Program Subaccount is hereby created in the Behavioral Health Services Fund.

(B) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the subaccount are reserved and continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, to the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to provide funds to meet its financial obligations pursuant to service contracts entered into pursuant to Section 5849.35.

(C) Notwithstanding any other law, including any other provision of this section, no later than the last day of each month, the Controller shall, before any transfer or expenditure from the fund for any other purpose for the following month, transfer from the Behavioral Health Services Fund to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount an amount that has been certified by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5849.35 but not to exceed an aggregate amount of one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year.

(D) If, in any month, the amounts in the Behavioral Health Services Fund are insufficient to fully transfer to the subaccount or the amounts in the subaccount are insufficient to fully pay the amount certified by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, the shortfall shall be carried over to the next month, to be transferred by the Controller with any transfer required by the preceding sentence.

(E) Moneys in the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount shall not be loaned to the General Fund pursuant to Section 16310 or 16381 of the Government Code.

(2) (A) Prior to the issuance of any bonds pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code, the Legislature may appropriate for transfer funds in the Behavioral Health Services Fund to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount in an amount up to one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year.

(B) Any amount appropriated for transfer pursuant to this paragraph and deposited in the No Place Like Home Fund shall reduce the authorized but unissued amount of bonds that the California Health Facilities Financing Authority may issue pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code by a corresponding amount.

(C) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys in the subaccount transferred pursuant to this paragraph are reserved and continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for transfer to the No Place Like Home Fund, to be used for purposes of Part 3.9 (commencing with Section 5849.1).

(D) The Controller shall, before any transfer or expenditure from the fund for any other purpose for the following month but after any transfer from the fund for purposes of paragraph (1), transfer moneys appropriated from the Behavioral Health Services Fund to the subaccount pursuant to this paragraph in equal amounts over the following 12-month period, beginning no later than 90 days after the effective date of the appropriation by the Legislature.

(E) If, in any month, the amounts in the Behavioral Health Services Fund are insufficient to fully transfer to the subaccount or the amounts in the subaccount are insufficient to fully pay the amount appropriated for transfer pursuant to this paragraph, the shortfall shall be carried over to the next month.

(3) The sum of any transfer described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not exceed an aggregate of one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) per year.

(4) Paragraph (2) shall become inoperative once bonds authorized pursuant to Section 15463 of the Government Code are issued.

(g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 89. Section 5891 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5891. (a) (1) (A) The funding established pursuant to this act shall be utilized to expand mental health services.

(B) Except as provided in subdivision (j) of Section 5892 due to the state's fiscal crisis, these funds shall not be used to supplant existing state or county funds utilized to provide mental health services.

(C) The state shall continue to provide financial support for mental health programs with not less than the same entitlements, amounts of allocations from the General Fund or from the Local Revenue Fund 2011 in the State Treasury, and formula distributions of dedicated funds as provided in the last fiscal year which ended prior to the effective date of this act.

(D) The state shall not make any change to the structure of financing mental health services, which increases a county's share of costs or financial risk for mental health services unless the state includes adequate funding to fully compensate for such increased costs or financial risk.

(E) These funds shall only be used to pay for the programs authorized in Sections 5890 and 5892. These funds may not be used to pay for any other program.

(F) These funds may not be loaned to the General Fund or any other fund of the state, or a county general fund or any other county fund for any purpose other than those authorized by Sections 5890 and 5892.

(2) *To maximize federal financial participation in furtherance of subdivision (d) of Section 5890, a county shall submit claims for reimbursement to the State Department of Health Care Services in accordance with applicable Medi-Cal rules and procedures for a behavioral health service or supportive service eligible for reimbursement pursuant to Title XIX or XXI of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396, et seq. and 1397aa, et seq.) when such service is paid, in whole or in part, using the funding established pursuant to this act.*

(3) (A) *To maximize funding from other sources, a county shall seek reimbursement for a behavioral health service, supportive service, housing intervention, or other related activity provided, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892, that is covered by or can be paid from another available funding source, including other mental health funds, substance use disorder funds, public and private insurance, and other local, state, and federal funds. This paragraph does not require counties to exhaust other funding sources before using behavioral health services fund moneys to pay for a service-related activity.*

(B) *A county shall make a good faith effort to enter into contracts, single case agreements, or other agreements to obtain reimbursement with health care service plans and disability insurance plans, pursuant to Section 1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code.*

(C) *A county shall also submit requests for prior authorization for services, request letters of agreement for payment as an out-of-network provider, and pursue other means to obtain reimbursement in accordance with state and federal laws.*

(b) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), and except as provided in paragraph (2), the Controller may use the funds created pursuant to this part for loans to the General Fund as provided in Sections 16310 and 16381 of the Government Code. Any such loan shall be repaid from the General Fund with interest computed at 110 percent of the Pooled Money Investment Account rate, with interest commencing to accrue on the date the loan is made from the fund. This subdivision does not authorize any transfer that would interfere with the carrying out of the object for which these funds were created.

(2) This subdivision does not apply to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount created by subdivision (f) of Section 5890 or any moneys paid by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to the Department of Housing and Community Development as a service fee pursuant to a service contract authorized by Section 5849.35.

(c) Commencing July 1, 2012, on or before the 15th day of each month, pursuant to a methodology provided by the State Department of Health Care Services, the Controller shall distribute to each Local Mental Health Service Fund established by counties pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 5892, all unexpended and unreserved funds on deposit as of the last day of the prior month in the Mental Health Services Fund, established pursuant to Section 5890, for the provision of programs and other related activities set forth in Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Part 3.9 (commencing with Section 5849.1), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850).

(d) (1) Counties shall base their expenditures on the county mental health program's three-year program and expenditure plan or annual update, as required by Section 5847. ~~Nothing in this subdivision shall affect subdivision (a) or (b).~~

(2) *This subdivision does not affect subdivision (a) or (b).*

(e) *This act shall not be construed to modify or reduce a health plan's obligations under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975.*

(f) *This section shall become operative immediately if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

(g) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 90. Section 5891 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5891. (a) (1) (A) *The funding established pursuant to this act shall be utilized by counties to expand mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.*

(B) *These funds shall not be used to supplant existing state or county funds utilized to provide mental health services or substance use disorder treatment services.*

(C) *The state shall continue to provide financial support for mental health and substance use disorder programs with not less than the same entitlements, amounts of allocations from the General Fund or from the Local Revenue Fund 2011 in the State Treasury, and formula distributions of dedicated funds as provided in the last fiscal year which ended prior to the effective date of this act.*

(D) *The state shall not make a change to the structure of financing mental health and substance use disorder treatment services that increases a county's share of costs or financial risk for behavioral health services unless the state includes adequate funding to fully compensate for such increased costs or financial risk.*

(E) *These funds shall only be used to pay for the programs authorized in Sections 5890 and 5892.*

(F) *These funds may not be used to pay for another program.*

(G) *These funds may not be loaned to the General Fund or another fund of the state, a county general fund, or another county fund for any purpose other than those authorized by Sections 5890 and 5892.*

(2) *To maximize federal financial participation in furtherance of subdivision (d) of Section 5890, a county shall submit claims for reimbursement to the State Department of Health Care Services in accordance with applicable Medi-Cal rules and procedures for a behavioral health service or supportive service eligible for reimbursement pursuant to Title XIX or XXI of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396, et seq. and 1397aa, et seq.) when such service is paid, in whole or in part, using the funding established pursuant to this act.*

(3) (A) *To maximize funding from other sources, a county shall seek reimbursement for a behavioral health service, supportive service, housing intervention, or other related activity provided, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892, that is covered by or can be paid from another available funding source, including other mental health funds, substance use disorder funds, public and private insurance, and other local, state, and federal funds. This paragraph does not require counties to exhaust other funding sources before using behavioral health services fund moneys to pay for a service or related activity.*

(B) *A county shall make a good faith effort to enter into contracts, single case agreements, or other agreements to obtain reimbursement with health care service plans and disability insurance plans, pursuant to Section*

1374.72 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.5 of the Insurance Code.

(C) *A county shall also submit requests for prior authorization for services, request letters of agreement for payment as an out-of-network provider, and pursue other means to obtain reimbursement in accordance with state and federal laws.*

(4) (A) *A county may report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as appropriate, complaints about a health plan's or a health insurer's failure to make a good faith effort to contract or enter into a single case agreement or other agreement with the county.*

(B) *A county may also report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, respectively, a failure by a health plan or insurer to timely reimburse the county for services the plan or insurer must cover as required by state or federal law, including, but not limited to, Sections 1374.72 and 1374.721 of the Health and Safety Code and Sections 10144.5 and 10144.52 of the Insurance Code.*

(C) *Upon receipt of a complaint from a county, the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance, as applicable, shall timely investigate the complaint.*

(b) (1) (A) *Notwithstanding subdivision (a) and except as provided in paragraph (2), the Controller may use the funds created pursuant to this part for loans to the General Fund as provided in Sections 16310 and 16381 of the Government Code.*

(B) *Those loans shall be repaid from the General Fund with interest computed at 110 percent of the Pooled Money Investment Account rate, with interest commencing to accrue on the date the loan is made from the fund.*

(C) *This subdivision does not authorize a transfer that would interfere with the carrying out of the object for which these funds were created.*

(2) *This subdivision does not apply to the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount created by subdivision (f) of Section 5890 or moneys paid by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to the Department of Housing and Community Development as a service fee pursuant to a service contract authorized by Section 5849.35.*

(c) *Commencing July 1, 2012, on or before the 15th day of each month, pursuant to a methodology provided by the State Department of Health Care Services, the Controller shall distribute to each Local Behavioral Health Service Fund established by counties, pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 5892, all unexpended and unreserved funds on deposit as of the last day of the prior month in the Behavioral Health Services Fund, established pursuant to Section 5890, for the provision of programs and other related activities set forth in Section 5892.*

(d) (1) *A county shall base its expenditures on the county mental health and substance use disorder*

program's integrated plan or annual update as required by Section 5963.02 or intermittent update pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5963.03.

(2) This subdivision does not affect subdivision (a) or (b).

(e) Each year, the State Department of Health Care Services shall post on its internet website the methodology used for allocating revenue from the Behavioral Health Service Fund to the counties.

(f) For purposes of this section, "behavioral health services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5892.

(g) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(h) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder treatment services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(i) For purposes of this section, "supportive services" shall have the meaning as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5887.

(j) This act shall not be construed to modify or reduce a health plan's obligations under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975.

(k) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 91. Section 5891.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5891.5. (a) (1) The programs in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, and paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 5890 may include substance use disorder treatment for children, adults, and older adults with cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders who are eligible to receive mental health services pursuant to those programs. The MHSA includes persons with a serious mental disorder and a diagnosis of substance abuse in the definition of persons who are eligible for MHSA services in Sections 5878.2 and 5813.5, which reference paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5600.3.

(2) Provision of substance use disorder *treatment* services pursuant to this section shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Mental Health Services Act.

(3) Treatment of cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders shall be identified in a county's three-year program and expenditure plan or annual update, as required by Section 5847.

(b) (1) When a person being treated for cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders pursuant to subdivision (a) is determined to not need the mental health services that are eligible for funding pursuant to the MHSA, the county shall refer the person receiving treatment to substance use disorder treatment services in a timely manner.

(2) Funding established pursuant to the MHSA may be used to assess whether a person has cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders and to treat a person who is preliminarily assessed to have cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders, even when the person is later determined not to be eligible for services provided with funding established pursuant to the MHSA.

(c) A county shall report to the department, in a form and manner determined by the department, both of the following:

(1) The number of people assessed for cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders.

(2) The number of people assessed for cooccurring mental health and substance use disorders who were ultimately determined to have only a substance use disorder without another cooccurring mental health condition.

(d) The department shall by January 1, 2022, and each January 1 thereafter, publish on its internet website a report summarizing county activities pursuant to this section for the prior fiscal year. Data shall be reported statewide and by county or groupings of counties, as necessary to protect the private health information of persons assessed.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this section by means of plan or county letters, information notices, plan or provider bulletins, or other similar instructions, without taking any further regulatory action.

(2) On or before July 1, 2025, the department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(f) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 92. Section 5891.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5891.5. (a) (1) *Notwithstanding any other law, the programs and services and supports in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892 may include substance use disorder treatment services, as defined in this section for children, youth, adults, and older adults.*

(2) Notwithstanding Section 5830, the provision of housing interventions to individuals with a substance use disorder shall be optional for counties.

(3) Counties that provide substance use disorder treatment services shall provide all forms of federal Food and Drug Administration approved medications for addiction treatment.

(4) Funding established pursuant to the Behavioral Health Services Act may be used to assess whether a person has a substance use disorder and to treat a person prior to a diagnosis of a substance use disorder, even when the person is later determined not to be eligible for services provided with funding established pursuant to the Behavioral Health Services Act.

(5) Substance use disorder treatment services shall be identified in a county's integrated plan or annual update, as required by Section 5963.02.

(b) (1) A county shall report to the department data and information regarding implementation of this section specified by the department.

(2) The data and information shall be reported in a form, manner, and frequency determined by the department.

(c) (1) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" means an adult, child, or youth who has at least one diagnosis of a moderate or severe substance use disorder from the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of tobacco-related disorders and non-substance-related disorders.

(2) For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder treatment services" include harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, including federal Food and Drug Administration approved medications.

(d) (1) The department shall, by January 1, 2022, and each January 1 thereafter, publish on its internet website a report summarizing county activities pursuant to this section for the prior fiscal year.

(2) Data shall be reported statewide and by county or groupings of counties, as necessary to protect the private health information of persons assessed.

(e) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 93. Section 5892 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5892. (a) In order to promote efficient implementation of this act, the county shall use funds distributed from the Mental Health Services Fund as follows:

(1) In the 2005–06, 2006–07, and 2007–08 fiscal years, 10 percent shall be placed in a trust fund to be expended for education and training programs pursuant to Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820).

(2) In the 2005–06, 2006–07, and 2007–08 fiscal years, 10 percent for capital facilities and technological needs shall be distributed to counties in accordance with a formula developed in consultation with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California to implement plans developed pursuant to Section 5847.

(3) Twenty percent of funds distributed to the counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 shall be used for prevention and early intervention programs in accordance with Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840).

(4) The expenditure for prevention and early intervention may be increased in any county in which the department determines that the increase will decrease the need and cost for additional services to persons with severe mental illness in that county by an amount at least commensurate with the proposed increase.

(5) The balance of funds shall be distributed to county mental health programs for services to persons with severe mental illnesses pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for the children's system of care and Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for the adult and older adult system of care. These services may include housing assistance, as defined in Section 5892.5, to the target population specified in Section 5600.3.

(6) Five percent of the total funding for each county mental health program for Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), shall be utilized for innovative programs in accordance with Sections 5830, 5847, and 5848.

(b) (1) In any fiscal year after the 2007–08 fiscal year, programs for services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) may include funds for technological needs and capital facilities, human resource needs, and a prudent reserve to ensure services do not have to be significantly reduced in years in which revenues are below the average of previous years. The total allocation for purposes authorized by this subdivision shall not exceed 20 percent of the average amount of funds allocated to that county for the previous five fiscal years pursuant to this section.

(2) A county shall calculate an amount it establishes as the prudent reserve for its Local Mental Health Services Fund, not to exceed 33 percent of the average community services and support revenue received for the fund in the preceding five years. The county shall reassess the maximum amount of this reserve every five years and certify the reassessment as part of the three-year program and expenditure plan required pursuant to Section 5847.

(3) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the State Department of Health Care Services may allow counties to determine the percentage of funds to allocate across programs created pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for the children's system of care and Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for the adult and older adult system of care for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 fiscal years by means of all-county letters or other similar instructions without taking further regulatory action.

(c) The allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall include funding for annual planning costs pursuant to Section 5848. The total of these costs shall not exceed 5 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the fund. The planning costs shall include funds for county mental health programs to pay for the costs of consumers, family members, and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process and for the planning and implementation required for private provider contracts to be significantly expanded to provide additional services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850).

(d) Prior to making the allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), funds shall be reserved for the costs for the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the State Department of Public Health, and any other state agency to implement all duties pursuant to the programs set forth in this section. These costs shall not exceed 5 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the fund. The administrative costs shall include funds to assist consumers and family members to ensure the appropriate state and county agencies give full consideration to concerns about quality, structure of service delivery, or access to services. The amounts allocated for administration shall include amounts sufficient to ensure adequate research and evaluation regarding the effectiveness of services being provided and achievement of the outcome measures set forth in Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850). The amount of funds available for the purposes of this subdivision in any fiscal year is subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(e) In the 2004–05 fiscal year, funds shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Forty-five percent for education and training pursuant to Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820).

(2) Forty-five percent for capital facilities and technology needs in the manner specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

(3) Five percent for local planning in the manner specified in subdivision (c).

(4) Five percent for state implementation in the manner specified in subdivision (d).

(f) Each county shall place all funds received from the State Mental Health Services Fund in a local Mental Health Services Fund. The Local Mental Health Services Fund balance shall be invested consistent with other county funds and the interest earned on the investments shall be transferred into the fund. The earnings on investment of these funds shall be available for distribution from the fund in future fiscal years.

(g) All expenditures for county mental health programs shall be consistent with a currently approved plan or update pursuant to Section 5847.

(h) (1) Other than funds placed in a reserve in accordance with an approved plan, any funds allocated to a county that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within three years, and the interest accruing on those funds, shall revert to the state to be deposited into the Reversion Account, hereby established in the fund, and available for other counties in future years, provided, however, that funds, including interest accrued on those funds, for capital facilities, technological needs, or education and training may be retained for up to 10 years before reverting to the Reversion Account.

(2) (A) If a county receives approval from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission of a plan for innovative programs, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5830, the county's funds identified in that plan for innovative programs shall not revert to the state pursuant to paragraph (1) so long as they are encumbered under the terms of the approved project plan, including any subsequent amendments approved by the commission, or until three years after the date of approval, whichever is later.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to all plans for innovative programs that have received commission approval and are in the process at the time of enactment of the act that added this subparagraph, and to all plans that receive commission approval thereafter.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), funds allocated to a county with a population of less than 200,000 that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within five years shall revert to the state as described in paragraph (1).

(4) (A) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), if a county with a population of less than 200,000 receives approval from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission of a plan for innovative programs, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5830, the county's funds identified in that plan for innovative programs shall not revert to the state pursuant to paragraph (1) so long as they are encumbered under the terms of the approved project plan, including any subsequent amendments approved by the commission, or until five years after the date of approval, whichever is later.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to all plans for innovative programs that have received commission approval and are in the process at the time of enactment of the act that added this subparagraph, and to all plans that receive commission approval thereafter.

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (h) and Section 5892.1, unspent funds allocated to a county, and interest accruing on those funds, which are subject to reversion as of July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020, shall be subject to reversion on July 1, 2021.

(j) If there are revenues available in the fund after the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability

Commission has determined there are prudent reserves and no unmet needs for any of the programs funded pursuant to this section, including all purposes of the Prevention and Early Intervention Program, the commission shall develop a plan for expenditures of these revenues to further the purposes of this act and the Legislature may appropriate these funds for any purpose consistent with the commission's adopted plan that furthers the purposes of this act.

(k) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 94. Section 5892 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5892. (a) *To promote efficient implementation of this act, the county shall use funds distributed from the Mental Health Services Fund as follows:*

(1) Twenty percent of funds distributed to the counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 shall be used for prevention and early intervention programs in accordance with Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840).

(2) The expenditure for prevention and early intervention may be increased in a county in which the department determines that the increase will decrease the need and cost for additional services to persons with severe mental illness in that county by an amount at least commensurate with the proposed increase.

(3) The balance of funds shall be distributed to county mental health programs for services to persons with severe mental illnesses pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for the children's system of care and Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for the adult and older adult system of care. These services may include housing assistance, as defined in Section 5892.5, to the target population specified in Section 5600.3.

(4) Five percent of the total funding for each county mental health program for Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) shall be utilized for innovative programs in accordance with Sections 5830, 5847, and 5963.03.

(b) (1) Programs for services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) may include funds for technological needs and capital facilities, human resource needs, and a prudent reserve to ensure services do not have to be significantly reduced in years in which revenues are below the average of previous years. The total allocation for purposes authorized by this subdivision shall not exceed 20 percent of the average amount of funds allocated to that county for the previous five fiscal years pursuant to this section.

(2) A county shall calculate a maximum amount it establishes as the prudent reserve for its Local Behavioral Health Services Fund, not to exceed 33

percent of the average of the total funds distributed to the county pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 in the preceding five years.

(3) A county with a population of less than 200,000 shall calculate a maximum amount it establishes as the prudent reserve for its Local Behavioral Health Services Fund, not to exceed 25 percent of the average of the total funds distributed to the county pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 in the preceding five years.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5891, the allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall include funding for annual planning costs pursuant to Sections 5847 and 5963.03. The total of these costs shall not exceed 5 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the Local Behavioral Health Services Fund. The planning costs shall include funds for county mental health programs to pay for the costs of consumers, family members, and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process and for the planning and implementation required for private provider contracts to be significantly expanded to provide additional services pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850).

(d) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5891, the allocations pursuant to subdivision (a) may include funding to improve plan operations, quality outcomes, fiscal and programmatic data reporting, and monitoring of subcontractor compliance for all county behavioral health programs, including, but not limited to, programs administered by a Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, and programs funded by the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness grant, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and other Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants.

(2) The total of these costs shall not exceed 2 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the Local Behavioral Health Services Fund.

(3) A county may commence use of funding pursuant to this paragraph on July 1, 2025.

(e) (1) (A) Prior to making the allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (d), funds shall be reserved for state directed purposes for the California Health and Human Services Agency, the State Department of Health Care Services, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Department of Health Care Access and Information, the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the State Department of Public Health, and any other state agency.

(B) These costs shall not exceed 5 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the fund.

(C) The costs shall include funds to assist consumers and family members to ensure the appropriate state and county agencies give full consideration to concerns

about quality, structure of service delivery, or access to services.

(D) The amounts allocated for state directed purposes shall include amounts sufficient to ensure adequate research and evaluation regarding the effectiveness of services being provided and achievement of the outcome measures set forth in Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850).

(E) The amount of funds available for the purposes of this subdivision in any fiscal year is subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(2) Prior to making the allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (d), funds shall be reserved for the costs of the Department of Health Care Access and Information to administer a behavioral health workforce initiative in collaboration with the California Health and Human Services Agency. Funding for this purpose shall not exceed thirty-six million dollars. The amount of funds available for the purposes of this subdivision in any fiscal year is subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(f) Each county shall place all funds received from the State Mental Health Services Fund in a local Mental Health Services Fund. The Local Mental Health Services Fund balance shall be invested consistent with other county funds and the interest earned on the investments shall be transferred into the fund. The earnings on investment of these funds shall be available for distribution from the fund in future fiscal years.

(g) All expenditures for county mental health programs shall be consistent with a currently approved plan or update pursuant to Section 5847.

(h) (1) Other than funds placed in a reserve in accordance with an approved plan, any funds allocated to a county that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within three years, and the interest accruing on those funds, shall revert to the state to be deposited into the Reversion Account, hereby established in the fund, and available for other counties in future years, provided, however, that funds, including interest accrued on those funds, for capital facilities, technological needs, or education and training may be retained for up to 10 years before reverting to the Reversion Account.

(2) (A) If a county receives approval from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission of a plan for innovative programs, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5830, the county's funds identified in that plan for innovative programs shall not revert to the state pursuant to paragraph (1) so long as they are encumbered under the terms of the approved project plan, including any subsequent amendments approved by the commission, or until three years after the date of approval, whichever is later.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to all plans for innovative programs that have received commission approval and are in the process at the time of enactment of the act

that added this subparagraph, and to all plans that receive commission approval thereafter.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), funds allocated to a county with a population of less than 200,000 that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within five years shall revert to the state as described in paragraph (1).

(4) (A) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), if a county with a population of less than 200,000 receives approval from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission of a plan for innovative programs, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5830, the county's funds identified in that plan for innovative programs shall not revert to the state pursuant to paragraph (1) so long as they are encumbered under the terms of the approved project plan, including any subsequent amendments approved by the commission, or until five years after the date of approval, whichever is later.

(B) Subparagraph (A) applies to all plans for innovative programs that have received commission approval and are in the process at the time of enactment of the act that added this subparagraph, and to all plans that receive commission approval thereafter.

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (h) and Section 5892.1, unspent funds allocated to a county, and interest accruing on those funds, which are subject to reversion as of July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020, shall be subject to reversion on July 1, 2021.

(j) If there are revenues available in the fund after the State Department of Health Care Services has determined there are prudent reserves and no unmet needs for any of the programs funded pursuant to this section, the department, in consultation with counties, shall develop a plan for expenditures of these revenues to further the purposes of this act and the Legislature may appropriate these funds for any purpose consistent with the department's plan that furthers the purposes of this act.

(k) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

(l) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 95. Section 5892 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5892. (a) To promote efficient implementation of this act, subject to subdivision (c), the county shall use funds distributed from the Behavioral Health Services Fund as follows:

(1) (A) (i) Thirty percent of funds distributed to the counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 shall be used for housing interventions programs pursuant to Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830).

(ii) Of the funds distributed pursuant to clause (i), 50 percent shall be used for housing interventions for persons who are chronically homeless, with a focus on those in encampments.

(iii) Of the funds distributed pursuant clause (i), no more than 25 percent may be used for capital development projects pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5830.

(B) Commencing with the 2026–29 fiscal years' county integrated plan, pursuant to Section 5963.02, and ongoing thereafter, for counties with a population of less than 200,000, the State Department of Health Care Services shall establish criteria and a process for approving county requests for an exemption from subparagraph (A) that considers factors including a county's homeless population, the number of individuals receiving Medi-Cal specialty behavioral health services or substance use disorder treatment services in another county, and other factors as determined by the State Department of Health Care Services. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California on reasonable criteria for those requests and a timely and efficient exemption process. Requests for approval of an exemption under this subparagraph shall be responded to, approved, or denied within 30 days of receipt by the department, or shall otherwise be deemed approved by the department.

(C) Commencing with the 2032–35 fiscal years' county integrated plan, pursuant to Section 5963.02, and ongoing thereafter, the State Department of Health Care Services may establish criteria and a process for approving county requests for an exemption from subparagraph (A) that considers the factors set forth in subparagraph (B), regardless of the population size of the county. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California on reasonable criteria for those requests and a timely and efficient exemption process.

(2) (A) Thirty-five percent of the funds distributed to counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 shall be used for full-service partnership programs pursuant to Part 4.1 (commencing with Section 5887).

(B) Commencing with the 2032–35 fiscal years' county integrated plan, pursuant to Section 5963.02, and ongoing thereafter, the State Department of Health Care Services may establish criteria and a process for approving requests for an exemption from subparagraph (A) that considers factors such as county population, client counts, and other factors as determined by the State Department of Health Care Services. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California on reasonable criteria for those requests and a timely and efficient exemption process.

(C) Housing interventions provided to individuals enrolled in full-service partnership programs shall be funded pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).

(3) (A) Thirty-five percent of the funds distributed to counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 shall be used for the following Behavioral Health Services and Supports:

(i) Services pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) for the children's system of care and Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800) for the adult and older adult system of care, excluding those services specified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(ii) Early intervention programs in accordance with Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840).

(iii) Outreach and engagement.

(iv) Workforce education and training.

(v) Capital facilities and technological needs.

(vi) Innovative behavioral health pilots and projects.

(B) (i) A county shall utilize at least 51 percent of Behavioral Health Services and Supports funding for early intervention programs.

(ii) A county shall utilize at least 51 percent of the county's funding allocated for early intervention programs to serve individuals who are 25 years of age and younger.

(iii) A county shall comply with other funding allocations specified by the State Department of Health Care Services for the purposes listed in subparagraph (A).

(4) (A) A county may pilot and test innovative behavioral health models of care programs or innovative promising practices for the programs specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(B) The goal of these innovative pilots and innovative promising practices is to build the evidence base for the effectiveness of new statewide strategies.

(5) The programs established pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall include services to address the needs of eligible children and youth, 0 to 5 years of age, inclusive, transition age youth, and foster youth.

(6) A county is only obligated to fund the programs established pursuant to paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, with the funds it receives pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891.

(b) (1) A county shall establish and maintain a prudent reserve to ensure county programs are able to continue to meet the needs of children and youth, adults, and older adults participating in housing intervention programs pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), full-service partnership programs pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), and receiving services pursuant to clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), during years in which revenues for the Behavioral Health Services Fund are below recent averages adjusted by changes in the state population and the California Consumer Price Index.

(2) Notwithstanding the allocation percentages specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a), a county may transfer funds into the prudent reserve from housing intervention programs pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), full-service partnership programs pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), and Behavioral Health Services and Supports pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

(3) A county shall calculate a maximum amount it establishes as the prudent reserve for its Local Behavioral Health Services Fund, not to exceed 20 percent of the average of the total funds distributed to the county pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 in the preceding five years.

(4) A county with a population of less than 200,000 shall calculate a maximum amount it establishes as the prudent reserve for its Local Behavioral Health Services Fund, not to exceed 25 percent of the average of the total funds distributed to the county pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891 in the preceding five years.

(5) (A) A county shall assess the maximum amount of its prudent reserve pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) every three years and shall include a plan for the expenditure of funds exceeding the maximum amount in the county's integrated plan required pursuant to Section 5963.02.

(B) A county shall spend funds exceeding the maximum amount on programs and services authorized in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a).

(6) (A) A county shall spend prudent reserve funds on the programs and services authorized in paragraphs (1) and (3), and clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

(B) A county shall not spend prudent reserve funds for the purposes specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5830.

(c) (1) A county may transfer up to 14 percent of the total funds allocated to the county in a fiscal year between one or more of the purposes authorized in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of subdivision (a). A county shall not decrease the allocation for any one of the purposes authorized in paragraph (1), (2) or (3) by more than 7 percent of the total funds allocated to the county in a fiscal year. County changes to the allocation percentages specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a) shall be subject to the approval of the State Department of Health Care Services.

(2) A county changing its allocation percentages pursuant to this subdivision does not relieve the county from the obligation to comply with any applicable laws, including, but not limited to, clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), and paragraphs (3) and (5), of subdivision (a).

(3) A county shall include proposed changes to the allocation percentages in the county integrated plan pursuant to Section 5963.02, and shall consult with local stakeholders pursuant to Section 5963.03.

(4) A county shall submit a request to shift funding allocation to the State Department of Health Care Services for approval after fulfilling the integrated planning and local stakeholder consultation requirements pursuant to Sections 5963.02 and 5963.03. The county shall submit the request for approval in a form and manner, and in accordance with timelines, prescribed by the department. Counties shall provide any other information, records, and reports that the department deems necessary for the purposes of this subdivision. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California on reasonable criteria for those requests and a timely and efficient approval process. Requests for approval of a shift under this subparagraph shall be responded to, approved, or denied within 30 days of receipt by the department, or shall otherwise be deemed approved by the department.

(A) The department shall review a county's request based on the county's compliance with paragraphs (1) and (2) and demonstration that the requested shift is responsive to local priorities, based on, at a minimum, local data and community input in the planning process.

(B) The State Department of Health Care Services may approve a proposed shift in funding allocations for the current integrated planning period based upon data and information a county submits demonstrating the need for the adjustment.

(C) Unless an annual change is approved by the State Department of Health Care Services, approved allocation adjustments are irrevocable during the applicable three-year period and a county shall not adjust the allocation of funds in the county's subsequent annual and intermittent updates to the county's integrated plan. The State Department of Health Care Services shall collaborate with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association on reasonable criteria for such requests and a timely and efficient approval process. Requests for approval of a change under this subparagraph shall be responded to, approved, or denied within 30 days of receipt by the department, or shall otherwise be deemed approved by the department.

(d) The programs established pursuant to subdivision (a) shall prioritize services for the following populations:

(1) Eligible adults and older adults, as defined in subdivision (k), who satisfy one of the following:

(A) Are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

(B) Are in, or are at risk of being in, the justice system.

(C) Are reentering the community from prison or jail.

(D) Are at risk of conservatorship pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5350) of Part 1 of Division 5.

(E) Are at risk of institutionalization.

(2) *Eligible children and youth, as defined in subdivision (k), who satisfy one of the following:*

(A) *Are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.*

(B) *Are in, or at risk of being in, the juvenile justice system.*

(C) *Are reentering the community from a youth correctional facility.*

(D) *Are in the child welfare system pursuant to Section 300, 601, or 602.*

(E) *Are at risk of institutionalization.*

(e) (1) (A) *Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5891, the allocations pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include funding for annual planning costs pursuant to Sections 5963.02 and 5963.03.*

(B) *The total of these costs shall not exceed 5 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the Local Behavioral Health Services Fund.*

(C) *The planning costs shall include funds for county mental health and substance use disorder programs to pay for the costs of consumers, family members, and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process.*

(2) (A) *Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5891, the allocations pursuant to subdivision (a) may include funding to improve plan operations, quality outcomes, fiscal and programmatic data reporting pursuant to Section 5963.04, and monitoring of subcontractor compliance for all county behavioral health programs, including, but not limited to, programs administered by a Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, and programs funded by the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness grant, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and other Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants.*

(B) *The total of the costs in subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 2 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the Local Behavioral Health Services Fund. For counties with a population of less than 200,000, the total of the costs in subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 4 percent of the total annual revenues received from the Local Behavioral Health Services Fund.*

(C) *A county may commence use of funding pursuant to this paragraph on July 1, 2025.*

(D) *Notwithstanding any other law, new costs to implement this article that exceed existing county obligations and are in excess of the funds provided by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) shall be evaluated by the State Department of Health Care Services for inclusion in the Governor's 2024–25 May Revision. The department shall consult with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, no later than March 15, 2024, to evaluate the resources needed to implement this article.*

(f) (1) *Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5891, prior to making the allocations pursuant to subdivisions (a), (b), (d), and (e), funds shall be reserved for:*

(A) *State directed purposes consistent with the Behavioral Health Services Act, for the California Health and Human Services Agency, State Department of Health Care Services, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Department of Health Care Access and Information, the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the State Department of Public Health, and any other state agency.*

(B) *The costs to assist consumers and family members so that the appropriate state and county agencies give full consideration to concerns about quality, structure of service delivery, or access to services.*

(C) *The costs for research and evaluation regarding the effectiveness of programs and services listed in subdivision (a) and achievement of the outcome measures and metrics pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 5897.*

(D) (i) *The costs of the Department of Health Care Access and Information to implement a behavioral health workforce initiative. The cost for this initiative shall be a minimum of 3 percent of the total funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision.*

(ii) *This initiative shall be developed in consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, behavioral health professionals, counties, behavioral health education and training programs, and behavioral health consumer advocates. The initiative shall focus on efforts to build and support the workforce to meet the need to provide holistic and quality services and support the development and implementation of strategies for training, supporting, and retaining the county behavioral health workforce and noncounty contracted behavioral health workforce, including efforts to increase the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of behavioral health providers and increase access to behavioral health providers in geographically underserved areas.*

(iii) *A portion of the workforce initiative may focus on providing technical assistance and support to county contracted providers to implement and maintain workforce provisions that support the stabilization and retention of the broad behavioral health workforce.*

(iv) *A portion of the workforce initiative may focus on providing technical assistance and support to county and contracted providers to maximize the use of peer support specialists.*

(E) *The costs for the State Department of Public Health to provide population-based mental health and substance use disorder prevention programs. A minimum of 4 percent of the total funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision shall be distributed to the State Department of Public Health for this purpose. Of these funds, at least 51 percent shall be used for programs serving populations who are 25 years of age*

or younger. The State Department of Public Health shall consult with the State Department of Health Care Services and the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to ensure the provision of these programs.

(i) Population-based prevention programs are activities designed to reduce the prevalence of mental health and substance use disorders and resulting conditions.

(ii) Population-based prevention programs shall incorporate evidence-based promising or community-defined evidence practices and meet one or more of the following conditions:

(I) Target the entire population of the state, county, or particular community to reduce the risk of individuals developing a mental health or substance use disorder.

(II) Target specific populations at elevated risk for a mental health, substance misuse, or substance use disorder.

(III) Reduce stigma associated with seeking help for mental health challenges and substance use disorders.

(IV) Target populations disproportionately impacted by systemic racism and discrimination.

(V) Prevent suicide, self-harm, or overdose.

(iii) Population-based prevention programs may be implemented statewide or in community settings.

(iv) Population-based prevention programs shall not include the provision of early intervention, diagnostic, and treatment for individuals.

(v) Population-based prevention programs shall be provided on a schoolwide or classroom basis and may be provided by a community-based organization off campus or on school grounds.

(vi) School-based prevention supports and programs shall be provided at a school site or arranged for by a school on a schoolwide or classroom basis and shall not provide services and supports for individuals. These supports and programs may include, but are not limited to:

(I) School-based health centers, student wellness centers, or student wellbeing centers.

(II) Activities, including, but not limited to, group coaching and consultation, designed to prevent substance misuse, increase mindfulness, self-regulation, development of protective factors, calming strategies, and communication skills.

(III) Integrated or embedded school-based programs designed to reduce stigma associated with seeking help for mental health challenges and substance use disorders.

(IV) Student mental health first aid programs designed to identify and prevent suicide or overdose.

(V) Integrated training and systems of support for teachers and school administrators designed to mitigate suspension and expulsion practices and assist with classroom management.

(vii) Early childhood population-based prevention programs for children 0 to 5 years of age, inclusive, shall be provided in a range of settings.

(viii) Funding under this provision shall comply with Section 5891 and shall be used to strengthen population-based strategies and not supplant funding for services and supports for which ongoing funding is available through Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative or other sources.

(F) The Behavioral Health Services Act Innovation Partnership Fund as provided for in Section 5845.1. A maximum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be deposited into the fund annually, for fiscal years 2026–27 to 2030–31, inclusive. Thereafter funding shall be determined through the annual budget act.

(G) At its discretion, the commission may utilize funding received in support of the Mental Health Wellness Act to support this section, consistent with subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (g), and subdivision (h), of Section 5848.5.

(2) The costs for the purposes specified in paragraph (1) shall not exceed 10 percent of the total of annual revenues received for the State Behavioral Health Services Fund. The amount of funds available for the purposes of this subdivision in any fiscal year is subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(g) Each county shall place all funds received from the State Behavioral Health Services Fund in a local Behavioral Health Services Fund. The Local Behavioral Health Services Fund balance shall be invested consistent with other county funds and the interest earned on the investments shall be transferred into the fund. The earnings on investment of these funds shall be available for distribution from the fund in future fiscal years.

(h) All expenditures for county behavioral health programs shall be consistent with a currently approved county integrated plan or annual update pursuant to Section 5963.02 or an intermittent update prepared pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5963.03.

(i) (1) Other than funds placed in a reserve in accordance with an approved plan, any funds allocated to a county that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within three years, and the interest accruing on those funds, shall revert to the state to be deposited into the Reversion Account, hereby established in the fund, and available for other counties in future years, provided, however, that funds, including interest accrued on those funds, for capital facilities, technological needs, or education and training may be retained for up to 10 years before reverting to the Reversion Account.

(2) (A) The Controller shall revert funds by offsetting amounts from each monthly distribution to a county's Local Behavioral Health Service Fund pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891, until the full amount of the reverted funds has been offset. The reverted funds shall be deposited into the Reversion Account for use, consistent with this section and Sections 5890, 5891

and 5891.5, as determined by the State Department of Health Care Services.

(B) Funds that have been reverted that are owed to a county as a result of an audit adjustment, or for other reasons, shall be paid from the Reversion Account. If the balance of funds in the Reversion Account is inadequate, funds owed to a county shall be offset from the monthly distributions to other counties pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891, based on a methodology provided by the State Department of Health Care Services. Owed funds shall be paid to a county in the monthly distribution pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5891.

(C) If the State Department of Health Care Services withholds funds from a monthly distribution to a county pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5963.04, funds shall be reverted first and the remaining balance shall be withheld.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), funds allocated to a county with a population of less than 200,000 that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within five years shall revert to the state as described in paragraph (1).

(j) If there are revenues available in the fund after the State Department of Health Care Services has determined there are prudent reserves and no unmet needs for any of the programs funded pursuant to this section, the department, in consultation with counties, shall develop a plan for expenditures of these revenues to further the purposes of this act and the Legislature may appropriate these funds for any purpose consistent with the department's plan that furthers the purposes of this act.

(k) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Behavioral health services" means mental health services and substance use disorder treatment services, as defined in Section 5891.5.

(2) "Chronically homeless" means an individual or family that is chronically homeless, as defined in Section 11360 of Title 42 of the United States Code, or as otherwise modified or expanded by the State Department of Health Care Services.

(3) "Experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness" means people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as defined in Section 91.5 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or as otherwise defined by the State Department of Health Care Services for purposes of the Medi-Cal program.

(4) "Outreach and engagement" means activities to reach, identify, and engage individuals and communities in the behavioral health system, including peers and families, and to reduce disparities. Counties may include evidence-based practices and community-defined evidence practices in the provision of activities.

(5) "Workforce education and training" includes, but is not limited to, the following for the county workforce:

(A) Workforce recruitment, development, training, and retention.

(B) Professional licensing and/or certification testing and fees.

(C) Loan repayment.

(D) Retention incentives and stipends.

(E) Internship and apprenticeship programs.

(F) Continuing education.

(G) Efforts to increase the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the behavioral health workforce.

(6) "Community-defined evidence practices" means an alternative or complement to evidence-based practices, that offer culturally anchored interventions that reflect the values, practices, histories, and lived-experiences of the communities they serve. These practices come from the community and the organizations that serve them and are found to yield positive results as determined by community consensus over time.

(7) (A) "Eligible children and youth" means persons who are 25 years of age or under, including early childhood or transition age youth who do either of the following:

(i) Meet the criteria specified in subdivision (d) of Section 14184.402, notwithstanding age limitations.

(ii) Have a substance use disorder, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(B) Eligible children and youth are not required to be enrolled in the Medi-Cal program.

(8) (A) "Eligible adults and older adults" means persons who are 26 years of age or older who do either of the following:

(i) Meet the criteria specified in subdivision (c) of Section 14184.402.

(ii) Have a substance use disorder, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 5891.5.

(B) Eligible adults and older adults are not required to be enrolled in the Medi-Cal program.

(l) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 98. Section 5892.3 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5892.3. (a) There is hereby created a Behavioral Health Services Act Revenue Stability Workgroup to assess year-over-year fluctuations in tax revenues generated by the Behavioral Health Services Act, in recognition of the need for a reliable strategy for short- and long-term fiscal stability, commencing no later than June 30, 2024.

(b) The workgroup shall develop and recommend solutions to reduce Behavioral Health Services Act revenue volatility and to propose appropriate prudent reserve levels to support the sustainability of county programs and services.

(c) (1) *The California Health and Human Services Agency and the State Department of Health Care Services shall jointly convene and lead the workgroup.*

(2) *Members of the workgroup shall serve without compensation. Members shall include representatives from the following entities:*

(A) *Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.*

(B) *Legislative Analyst's Office.*

(C) *County Behavioral Health Director's Association of California.*

(D) *California State Association of Counties, including both urban and rural county representatives.*

(3) *The California Department of Finance may consult with the workgroup, as needed, to provide technical assistance.*

(d) *The workgroup shall review and analyze current and historical revenues generated pursuant to the Mental Health Services Act and the Behavioral Health Services Act and current and historical prudent reserve levels to develop the recommendations specified in subdivision (b).*

(e) *On or before June 30, 2025, the California Health and Human Services Agency and the State Department of Health Care Services shall submit a report that includes its recommendations specified in subdivision (b) to the Legislature and the Governor's Office.*

(f) *The workgroup may meet as often as necessary, as determined by the members of the workgroup, until the workgroup is disbanded upon submission of the report specified in subdivision (b).*

(g) *Prudent reserve requirements specified in this subdivision may be changed, and requirements to mitigate Behavioral Health Services Act revenue volatility and improve fiscal stability may be developed, based upon recommendations made by the Behavioral Health Services Act Revenue Stability Workgroup pursuant to Section 5892.3.*

(h) *The California Health and Human Services Agency and the State Department of Health Care Services may jointly reconvene the workgroup, if at any point the recommended revenue volatility strategy and prudent reserve requirements no longer adequately support the sustainability of county programs and services given the year-over-year fluctuations in tax revenues generated by the Behavioral Health Services Act.*

SEC. 99. Section 5892.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5892.5. (a) (1) The California Housing Finance Agency, with the concurrence of the State Department of Health Care Services, shall release unencumbered Mental Health Services Fund moneys dedicated to the Mental Health Services Act housing program upon the written request of the respective county. The county shall use these Mental Health Services Fund moneys released by the agency to provide housing assistance

to the target populations who are identified in Section 5600.3.

(2) For purposes of this section, "housing assistance" means each of the following:

(A) Rental assistance or capitalized operating subsidies.

(B) Security deposits, utility deposits, or other move-in cost assistance.

(C) Utility payments.

(D) Moving cost assistance.

(E) Capital funding to build or rehabilitate housing for homeless, mentally ill persons or mentally ill persons who are at risk of being homeless.

(b) For purposes of administering those funds released to a respective county pursuant to subdivision (a), the county shall comply with all of the requirements described in the Mental Health Services Act, including, but not limited to, Sections 5664, 5847, subdivision (h) of Section 5892, and 5899.

(c) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 100. Section 5892.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5892.5. (a) (1) *The California Housing Finance Agency, with the concurrence of the State Department of Health Care Services, shall release unencumbered Behavioral Health Services Fund moneys dedicated to the Mental Health Services Act housing program upon the written request of the respective county.*

(2) *The county shall use these Behavioral Health Services Fund moneys released by the agency to provide housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830.*

(b) *For purposes of administering those funds released to a respective county pursuant to subdivision (a), the county shall comply with all of the requirements described in the Behavioral Health Services Act, including, but not limited to, Section 5664, Section 5963.02, subdivision (g) of Section 5892, and Section 5963.04.*

(c) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 103. Section 5895 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5895. ~~In the event~~ (a) *If any provisions of Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), 5800) or Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) of this division, are repealed or modified so the purposes of this act cannot be accomplished, the funds in the Mental Health Services Fund shall be administered in accordance with those sections as they read on January 1, 2004.*

(b) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 104. Section 5897 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5897. (a) Notwithstanding any other state law, the State Department of Health Care Services shall implement the mental health services provided by Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) through contracts with county mental health programs or counties acting jointly. A contract may be exclusive and may be awarded on a geographic basis. For purposes of this section, a county mental health program includes a city receiving funds pursuant to Section 5701.5.

(b) Two or more counties acting jointly may agree to deliver or subcontract for the delivery of those mental health services. The agreement may encompass all or any part of the mental health services provided pursuant to these parts. Any agreement between counties shall delineate each county's responsibilities and fiscal liability.

(c) The department shall implement the provisions of Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), and Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850) through the county mental health services performance contract, as specified in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5650) of Part 2.

(d) The department shall conduct program reviews of performance contracts to determine compliance. Each county performance contract shall be reviewed at least once every three years, subject to available funding for this purpose.

(e) When a county mental health program is not in compliance with its performance contract, the department may request a plan of correction with a specific timeline to achieve improvements. The department shall post on its ~~Internet Web site~~ *internet website* any plans of correction requested and the related findings.

(f) Contracts awarded by the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 5800), Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820), Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830), Part 3.6 (commencing with Section 5840), Part 3.7 (commencing with Section 5845), Part 4 (commencing with Section 5850), and Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 5890), may be awarded in the same manner in which contracts are awarded pursuant to Section 5814

and the provisions of subdivisions (g) and (h) of Section 5814 shall apply to those contracts.

(g) For purposes of Section 14712, the allocation of funds pursuant to Section 5892 that are used to provide services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries shall be included in calculating anticipated county matching funds and the transfer to the State Department of Health Care Services of the anticipated county matching funds needed for community mental health programs.

(h) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.

SEC. 105. Section 5897 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5897. (a) (1) *Notwithstanding any other state law, the State Department of Health Care Services shall implement the programs and services specified in subdivision (a) of Section 5892, and related activities, through contracts with a county or counties acting jointly.*

(2) *A contract may be exclusive and may be awarded on a geographic basis.*

(3) *For purposes of this section, a "county" includes a city receiving funds pursuant to Section 5701.5.*

(b) (1) *Two or more counties acting jointly may agree to deliver or subcontract for the delivery of programs and services pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 5892.*

(2) *The agreement may encompass all or part of these programs and services.*

(3) *An agreement between counties shall delineate each county's responsibilities and fiscal liability.*

(c) *The department shall contract with counties, or counties acting jointly pursuant to subdivision (a), through the county performance contract as specified in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5650) of Part 2.*

(d) (1) *The department shall conduct program reviews of performance contracts to determine compliance, including compliance with Sections 5963.02 and 5963.04.*

(2) *Each county performance contract shall be reviewed at least once every three years, subject to available funding for this purpose.*

(e) (1) *If a county behavioral health department is not in compliance with its performance contract, the department may request a plan of correction with a specific timeline to achieve improvements and take administrative action, including, but not limited to, the temporary withholding of funds and the imposition of monetary sanctions pursuant to Section 5963.04.*

(2) *The department shall post plans of correction requested and the related findings on its internet website.*

(f) *Contracts awarded by the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Department of Health Care Access and Information, the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the California Health and Human Services Agency to implement programs and services set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 5892 and programs pursuant to Part 3.1 (commencing with Section 5820) may be awarded in the same manner that contracts are awarded pursuant to Section 5814, and the provisions of subdivisions (g) and (h) of Section 5814 shall apply to those contracts.*

(g) *For purposes of Section 14712, the allocation of funds pursuant to Section 5892 that are used to provide services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries shall be included in calculating anticipated county matching funds and the transfer to the State Department of Health Care Services of the anticipated county matching funds needed for community mental health programs.*

(h) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 106. Section 5898 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5898. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, shall develop regulations, as necessary, for the State Department of Health Care Services, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, or designated state and local agencies to implement this act. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be developed with the maximum feasible opportunity for public participation and comments.

(b) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.*

SEC. 107. Section 5898 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5898. (a) (1) *The State Department of Health Care Services shall develop regulations, as necessary, to implement this act.*

(2) *Regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be developed with the maximum feasible opportunity for public participation and comments.*

(b) *This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

SEC. 108. Section 5899 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

5899. (a) (1) The State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and

the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, shall develop and administer instructions for the Annual Mental Health Services Act Revenue and Expenditure Report.

(2) The instructions shall include a requirement that the county certify the accuracy of this report.

(3) With the exception of expenditures and receipts related to the capital facilities and technology needs component described in paragraph (6) of subdivision (d), each county shall adhere to uniform accounting standards and procedures that conform to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles prescribed by the Controller pursuant to Section 30200 of the Government Code when accounting for receipts and expenditures of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds in preparing the report.

(4) Counties shall report receipts and expenditures related to capital facilities and technology needs using the cash basis of accounting, which recognizes expenditures at the time payment is made.

(5) Each county shall electronically submit the report to the department and to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

(6) The department and the commission shall annually post each county's report in a text-searchable format on its ~~Internet Web site~~ *internet website* in a timely manner.

(b) The department, in consultation with the commission and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, shall revise the instructions described in subdivision (a) by July 1, 2017, and as needed thereafter, to improve the timely and accurate submission of county revenue and expenditure data.

(c) The purpose of the Annual Mental Health Services Act Revenue and Expenditure Report is as follows:

(1) Identify the expenditures of MHSA funds that were distributed to each county.

(2) Quantify the amount of additional funds generated for the mental health system as a result of the MHSA.

(3) Identify unexpended funds, *funds* and interest earned on MHSA funds.

(4) Determine reversion amounts, if applicable, from prior fiscal year distributions.

(d) This report is intended to provide information that allows for the evaluation of all of the following:

(1) Children's systems of care.

(2) Prevention and early intervention strategies.

(3) Innovative projects.

(4) Workforce education and training.

(5) Adults and older adults systems of care.

(6) Capital facilities and technology needs.

(e) If a county does not submit the annual revenue and expenditure report described in subdivision (a) by the

required deadline, the department may withhold MHSA funds until the reports are submitted.

(f) A county shall also report the amount of MHSA funds that were spent on mental health services for veterans.

(g) By October 1, 2018, and by October 1 of each subsequent year, the department shall, in consultation with counties, publish on its ~~Internet Web site~~ *internet website* a report detailing funds subject to reversion by county and by originally allocated purpose. The report also shall include the date on which the funds will revert to the Mental Health Services Fund.

(h) *If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2026, and as of January 1, 2027, is repealed.*

SEC. 109. Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5963) is added to Part 7 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 3. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODERNIZATION ACT

Article 2. Behavioral Health Planning and Reporting
5963. (a) *It is the intent of the Legislature that this article establish the Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes, which each county shall develop every three years to include all of the following:*

(1) *A demonstration of how the county will utilize various funds for behavioral health services to deliver high-quality, culturally responsive, and timely care along the continuum of services in the least restrictive setting from prevention and wellness in schools and other settings to community-based outpatient care, residential care, crisis care, acute care, and housing services and supports.*

(2) *A demonstration of how the county will use Behavioral Health Services Act funds to prioritize addressing the needs of those who meet both of the following:*

(A) *Chronically homeless, experiencing unsheltered homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, are incarcerated or at risk of being incarcerated, are reentering the community from prison, jail, or a correctional facility, or at risk of institutionalization, conservatorship, or are in the child welfare or adult protective system.*

(B) *The criteria for eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, or for eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892.*

(3) *A demonstration of how the county will strategically invest in early intervention and advancing behavioral health innovation.*

(4) *A demonstration of how the county has considered other local program planning efforts in the development of the integrated plan to maximize opportunities to leverage funding and services from other programs, including federal funding, Medi-Cal managed care, and commercial health plans.*

(5) *A demonstration of how the county will support and retain a robust, diverse county and noncounty contracted behavioral health workforce to achieve the statewide and local behavioral health outcome goals.*

(6) *A development process in partnership with local stakeholders.*

(7) *A set of measures used to track progress and hold counties accountable in meeting specific outcomes and goals of the integrated plan, including outcomes and goals that reduce disparities.*

(8) *Information for the state to consider, if necessary, to recommend changes to the county's integrated plan or requiring sanctions to a county's Behavioral Health Services Act funding as a result of a county not meeting its obligations or state outcome metrics.*

(b) *For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:*

(1) *"Chronically homeless" means an individual or family that is chronically homeless, as defined in Section 11360 of Title 42 of the United States Code, or as otherwise modified or expanded by the State Department of Health Care Services.*

(2) *"Department" means the State Department of Health Care Services.*

(3) *"Experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness" means people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as defined in Section 91.5 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or as otherwise defined by the department.*

(4) *"Integrated plan" means the Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes required by this section.*

(c) *Notwithstanding any other law, new and ongoing county and behavioral health agency administrative costs to implement this article and Section 14197.71, any costs for plan development required under this article that exceed the amounts set forth in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 5892, and any costs for reporting required by this article that exceed the amounts set forth in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 5892, shall be included in the Governor's 2024–25 May Revision. The State Department of Health Care Services shall consult with the California State Association of Counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California no later than March 15, 2024, to estimate the resources needed to implement this article and Section 14197.71.*

5963.01. (a) *A county shall work with each Medi-Cal managed care plan, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, that covers residents of the county on development of the managed care plan's population needs assessment.*

(b) *A county shall work with its local health jurisdiction on development of its community health improvement plan.*

(c) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act*

are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

5963.02. (a) (1) Each county shall prepare and submit an integrated plan and annual updates to the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the department.

(2) All references to the three-year program and expenditure plan mean the integrated plan.

(3) Each county's board of supervisors shall approve the integrated plan and annual updates by June 30 prior to the fiscal year or years the integrated plan or update would cover.

(4) A county shall not use the integrated plan to demonstrate compliance with federal law, state law, or requirements imposed by the department related to programs listed in subdivision (c).

(b) (1) Each section of the integrated plan and annual update listed in subdivision (c) shall be based on available funding or obligations under Section 30025 of the Government Code and corresponding contracts for the applicable fiscal years and in accordance with established stakeholder engagement and planning requirements as required in Section 5963.03.

(2) A county shall consider relevant data sources, including local data, to guide addressing local needs, including the prevalence of mental health and substance use disorders, the unmet need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment in the county, behavioral health disparities, and the homelessness point-in-time count, in preparing each integrated plan and annual update, and should use the data to demonstrate how the plan appropriately allocates funding between mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

(3) A county shall consider the population needs assessment of each Medi-Cal managed care plan, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, that covers residents of the county in preparing each integrated plan and annual update.

(4) A county shall consider the community health improvement plan of the local health jurisdiction for the county in preparing each integrated plan and annual update.

(5) A county shall stratify data to identify behavioral health disparities and consider approaches to eliminate disparities, including, but not limited to, promising practices, models of care, community-defined evidence practices, workforce diversity, and cultural responsiveness in preparing each integrated plan and annual update.

(6) A county shall report and consider the achievement of defined goals and outcomes measures of the prior integrated plan and annual update, in addition to other data and information as specified by the department pursuant to Section 5963.05, in preparing each integrated plan and annual update.

(7) A county with a population greater than 200,000 shall collaborate with the five most populous cities in

the county, managed care plans, and continuums of care to outline respective responsibilities and coordination of services related to housing interventions described in Section 5830.

(8) A county shall consider input and feedback into the plan provided by stakeholders, including, but not limited to, those with lived behavioral health experience, including peers and families.

(c) The integrated plan and annual updates shall include a section for each of the following:

(1) (A) Community mental health services provided pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5600).

(B) Programs and services funded from the Behavioral Health Services Fund pursuant to Section 5890, including a description of how the county meets the requirements of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b).

(C) Programs and services funded by the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness grant pursuant to Sections 290cc-21 to 290cc-35, inclusive, of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(D) Programs and services funded by the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant pursuant to Sections 300x to 300x-9, inclusive, of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(E) Programs and services funded by the Substance Abuse Block Grant pursuant to Sections 300x-21 to 300x-35, inclusive, of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(F) Programs and services provided pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 14680) of Chapter 8.8 of Part 3 of Division 9 and Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700) of Part 3 of Division 9.

(G) Programs and services provided pursuant to Article 3.2 (commencing with Section 14124.20) of Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9.

(H) Programs and services provided pursuant to Section 14184.401.

(I) Programs and services funded by distributions from the Opioid Settlements Fund established pursuant to Section 12534 of the Government Code.

(J) Services provided through other federal grants or other county mental health and substance use disorder programs.

(2) A budget that includes the county planned expenditures and reserves for the county distributions from the Behavioral Health Service Fund and any other funds allocated to the county to provide the services and programs set forth in paragraph (1). The budget shall also include proposed adjustments pursuant to the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of Section 5892.

(3) (A) A description of how the integrated plan and annual update aligns with statewide behavioral health goals and outcome measures, including goals and outcome measures to reduce identified disparities, as defined by the department in consultation with counties, stakeholders, and the Behavioral Health

Services and Oversight Accountability Commission, pursuant to Section 5963.05.

(B) Outcome measures may include, but are not limited to, measures that demonstrate achievement of goals to reduce homelessness among those eligible for housing interventions pursuant to Section 5830 and measures that demonstrate reductions in the number of people who are justice-involved in the county and who are eligible adults or older adults, as defined in Section 5892, or eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892.

(4) A description of how the integrated plan aligns with local goals and outcome measures for behavioral health, including goals and outcome measures to reduce identified disparities.

(5) The programs and services specified in paragraph (1) shall include descriptions of efforts to reduce identified disparities in behavioral health outcomes.

(6) A description of the data sources considered to meet the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b).

(7) A description of how the county has considered the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth, justice-involved youth, child welfare-involved, justice-involved adults, and older adults in the housing intervention program pursuant to Part 3.2 (commencing with Section 5830) and Full Service Partnership program pursuant to Part 4.1 (commencing with Section 5887).

(8) A description of its workforce strategy, to include actions the county will take to ensure its county and noncounty contracted behavioral health workforce is well-supported and culturally and linguistically concordant with the population to be served, and robust enough to achieve the statewide and local behavioral health goals and measures. This description shall include how the county will do all of the following:

(A) Maintain and monitor a network of appropriate, high-quality, culturally and linguistically concordant county and noncounty contracted providers, where applicable, that is sufficient to provide adequate access to services and supports for individuals with behavioral health needs.

(B) Meet federal and state standards for timely access to care and services, considering the urgency of the need for services.

(C) Ensure the health and welfare of the individual and support community integration of the individual.

(D) Promote the delivery of services in a culturally competent manner to all individuals, including those with limited English proficiency and diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and disabilities, regardless of age, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

(E) Ensure physical access, reasonable accommodations, and accessible equipment for individuals with physical, intellectual and developmental, and mental disabilities.

(F) Select and retain all contracted network providers, including ensuring all contracted providers meet

minimum standards for license, certification, training, experience, and credentialing requirements.

(G) Ensure that the contractor's hiring practices meet applicable nondiscrimination standards and demonstrate best practices in promoting diversity and equity.

(H) Adequately fund contracts to ensure that noncounty contracted providers are resourced to achieve the behavioral health goals outlined in their contract for the purposes of meeting statewide metrics.

(I) Conduct oversight of compliance of all federal and state laws and regulations of all contracted network providers.

(J) Fill county vacancies and retain county employees providing direct behavioral health services, if applicable.

(9) A description of the system developed to transition a beneficiary's care between the beneficiary's mental health plan and their managed care plan based upon the beneficiary's health condition.

(10) Certification by the county behavioral health director, that ensures that the county has complied with all pertinent regulations, laws, and statutes, including stakeholder participation requirements.

(11) Certification by the county behavioral health director and by the county chief administration officer or their designee that the county has complied with fiscal accountability requirements, as directed by the department, and that all expenditures are consistent with applicable state and federal law.

(d) The county shall submit its integrated plan and annual updates to the department and the commission in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

(e) The department shall post on its internet website, in a timely manner, the integrated plan submitted by every county pursuant to this section.

(f) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

5963.03. (a) (1) Each integrated plan shall be developed with local stakeholders, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892.

(B) Families of eligible children and youth, eligible adults, and eligible older adults, as defined in Section 5892.

(C) Youths or youth mental health or substance use disorder organizations.

(D) Providers of mental health services and substance use disorder treatment services.

(E) Public safety partners, including county juvenile justice agencies.

(F) Local education agencies.

(G) Higher education partners.

- (H) Early childhood organizations.
- (I) Local public health jurisdictions.
- (J) County social services and child welfare agencies.
- (K) Labor representative organizations.
- (L) Veterans.
- (M) Representatives from veterans organizations.
- (N) Health care organizations, including hospitals.
- (O) Health care service plans, including Medi-Cal managed care plans as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101.
- (P) Disability insurers.
- (Q) Tribal and Indian Health Program designees established for Medi-Cal Tribal consultation purposes.
- (R) The five most populous cities in counties with a population greater than 200,000.
- (S) Area agencies on aging.
- (T) Independent living centers.
- (U) Continuums of care, including representatives from the homeless service provider community.
- (V) Regional centers.
- (W) Emergency medical services.
- (X) Community-based organizations serving culturally and linguistically diverse constituents.
- (2) (A) (i) A county shall demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on mental health and substance use disorder policy, program planning, and implementation, monitoring, workforce, quality improvement, health equity, evaluation, and budget allocations.
- (ii) Stakeholders shall include sufficient participation of individuals representing diverse viewpoints, including, but not limited to, representatives from youth from historically marginalized communities, representatives from organizations specializing in working with underserved racially and ethnically diverse communities, representatives from LGBTQ+ communities, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and people with lived experience of homelessness.
- (iii) A county may provide supports, including, but not limited to, training and technical assistance, to ensure stakeholders, including peers and families, receive sufficient information and data to meaningfully participate in the development of integrated plans and annual updates.
- (B) A draft plan and update shall be prepared and circulated for review and comment for at least 30 days to representatives of stakeholder interest and any interested party who has requested a copy of the draft plan.
- (b) (1) The behavioral health board established pursuant to Section 5604 shall conduct a public hearing on the draft integrated plan and annual updates at the

- close of the 30-day comment period required by subdivision (a).
- (2) Each adopted integrated plan and update shall include substantive written recommendations for revisions.
- (3) The adopted integrated plan or update shall summarize and analyze the recommended revisions.
- (4) The behavioral health board shall review the adopted integrated plan or update and make recommendations to the local mental health agency, local substance use disorder agency, or local behavioral health agency, as applicable, for revisions.
- (5) The local mental health agency, local substance use disorder agency, or local behavioral health agency, as applicable, shall provide an annual report of written explanations to the local governing body and the department for substantive recommendations made by the local behavioral health board that are not included in the final integrated plan or update.
- (6) A county may provide training to ensure stakeholders receive sufficient information and data to meaningfully participate in the development of integrated plans and annual updates.
- (c) (1) A county shall prepare annual updates to its integrated plan and may prepare intermittent updates.
- (2) In preparing annual and intermittent updates:
- (A) A county is not required to comply with the stakeholder process described in subdivisions (a) and (b).
- (B) A county shall post on its internet website all updates to its integrated plan and a summary and justification of the changes made by the updates for a 30-day comment period prior to the effective date of the updates.
- (d) For purposes of this section, "substantive recommendations made by the local behavioral health board" means a recommendation that is brought before the board and approved by a majority vote of the membership present at a public hearing of the local behavioral health board that has established a quorum.
- (e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.
- 5963.04. (a) (1) Annually, counties and Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, shall submit the County Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report to the department.
- (2) This report shall include the following data and information that shall be submitted in a form, manner, and in accordance with timelines prescribed by the department:
- (A) The county's annual allocation of state and federal behavioral health funds, by category.
- (B) The county's annual expenditure of state and federal behavioral health funds, by category.

(C) The amounts of annual and cumulative unspent state and federal behavioral health funds, including funds in a reserve account, by category.

(D) The county's annual expenditure of county general funds and other funds, by category, on mental health or substance use disorder treatment services.

(E) The sources and amounts spent annually as the nonfederal share for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services and Medi-Cal substance use disorder treatment services, by category.

(F) All administrative costs, by category.

(G) All contracted services, and the cost of those contracted services, by category.

(H) Information on behavioral health services provided to persons not covered by Medi-Cal, including, but not limited to, those who are uninsured or covered by Medicare or commercial insurance, by category.

(I) Other data and information, which shall include, but is not limited to, information on spending on children and youth, service utilization data, performance outcome measures across all behavioral health delivery systems, and data and information pertaining to populations with identified disparities in behavioral health outcomes, as specified by the department. This shall include data through the lens of health equity to identify racial, ethnic, age, gender, and other demographic disparities and inform disparity reduction efforts. Other data and information may include the number of people who are eligible adults and older adults, as defined in Section 5892, who are incarcerated, experiencing homelessness, inclusive of the availability of housing, the number of eligible children and youth, as defined in Section 5892, who access evidence based early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention programs.

(J) Data and information on workforce measures and metrics, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Vacancies and efforts to fill vacancies.

(ii) The number of county employees providing direct clinical behavioral health services.

(iii) Whether there is a net change in the number of county employees providing direct clinical behavioral health services compared to the prior year and an explanation for that change.

(b) The department shall establish metrics, in consultation with counties, stakeholders, and the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to measure and evaluate the quality and efficacy of the behavioral health services and programs listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 5963.02. The metrics shall be used to identify demographic and geographic disparities in the quality and efficacy of behavioral health services and programs listed in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 5963.02.

(c) Each county's board of supervisors shall attest that the County Behavioral Health Outcomes,

Accountability, and Transparency Report is complete and accurate before it is submitted to the department.

(d) Each year, the department shall post on its internet website a statewide County Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report.

(e) (1) The department may require a county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, to revise its integrated plan or annual update pursuant to Section 5963.02 if the department determines the plan or update fails to adequately address local needs pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5963.02.

(2) The department may impose a corrective action plan or require a county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, to revise its integrated plan or annual update pursuant to Section 5963.02 if the department determines that the county or delivery system fails to make adequate progress in meeting the metrics established by the department pursuant to subdivision (b).

(3) (A) (i) If a county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system fails to submit the data and information specified in subdivision (a) by the required deadline, or as otherwise required by the department, fails to allocate funding pursuant to Section 5892, or fails to follow the process pursuant to Section 5963.03, the department may impose a corrective action plan, monetary sanctions, or temporarily withhold payments to the county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system, pursuant to Section 14197.7.

(ii) Subject to the guidance issued pursuant to Section 5963.05, if a county's actual expenditures of its allocations from the Behavioral Health Services Fund significantly varies from its budget in Section 5963.02, the department may impose a corrective action plan, monetary sanctions, or temporarily withhold payments to the county pursuant to Section 14197.7.

(iii) Notwithstanding subdivision (o) of Section 14197.7, temporarily withheld payments shall be withheld from the Behavioral Health Services Fund.

(B) (i) Notwithstanding subdivision (q) of Section 14197.7, monetary sanctions collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Behavioral Health Services Act Accountability Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury.

(ii) Subject to the department's guidance issued pursuant to Section 5963.05, all monies in the Behavioral Health Services Act Accountability Fund shall be continuously appropriated and allocated and distributed to the county that paid the monetary sanction upon the department's determination that the county has come into compliance.

(C) The department shall temporarily withhold amounts it deems necessary to ensure the county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system comes into compliance.

(D) The department shall release the temporarily withheld funds when it determines the county or Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system has come into compliance.

(f) This section shall be read in conjunction with, and apply in addition to, any other applicable law that authorizes the department to impose sanctions or otherwise take remedial actions against a county and Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system.

(g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

5963.05. (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific the amendments made pursuant to this act by means of plan or county letters, information notices, plan or provider bulletins, or other similar instructions without taking further regulatory action.

(b) By July 1, 2033, the department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement, interpret, or make specific the amendments made pursuant to this act in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) (1) For purposes of implementing this act, the department may enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, or amend existing contracts, on a bid or negotiated basis, including contracts to implement new or change existing information technology systems.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, contracts entered into or amended, or changes to existing information technology systems made pursuant to this subdivision shall be exempt from Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 14825) of Part 5.5 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, Article 4 (commencing with Section 19130) of Chapter 5 of Part 2 of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code, Part 2 (commencing with Section 12100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, the Statewide Information Management Manual, and the State Administrative Manual and shall be exempt from the review or approval of any division of the Department of General Services or the Department of Technology.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

5963.06. (a) The California State Auditor shall, no later than December 31, 2029, issue to the Governor, the Legislature, the Senate and Assembly Committees on Health, the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, and the Senate Committee on Housing, a comprehensive report on the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act.

(b) The California State Auditor shall conduct the audit required pursuant to subdivision (a) every three years thereafter with the final audit due on or before December 31, 2035. The final report shall include final findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the topics addressed in the previous reports.

(1) The California State Auditor shall make their reports available to the public.

(2) The California State Auditor shall make every effort to provide affected entities with an opportunity to reply to any facts, findings, issues, or conclusions in their reports with which the department may disagree.

(c) The audit conducted pursuant to this section shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) The impact of the policy changes of the Behavioral Health Services Act on the overall delivery of behavioral health services in California.

(2) The timeliness and thoroughness of guidance issued and training and technical assistance provided to impacted entities by the state as it transitions from the existing behavioral health system of care to the reforms envisioned pursuant to this act.

(3) The implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act by each of the primary entities involved in the transition and implementation, including, but not limited to, the California Health and Human Services Agency, State Department of Health Care Services, Department of Health Care Access and Information, State Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, counties, and county behavioral health directors.

(4) How counties demonstrate progress towards meeting the statewide behavioral health goals and outcome measures developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 5963.02.

(5) The fiscal and programmatic aspects of the Behavioral Health Services Act, including reserve levels, reversion activity, services and system outcomes, workforce training, workforce capacity, number of individuals served, number of individuals receiving services, number of individuals receiving housing interventions, as reported to the department by counties.

(6) The revised Behavioral Health Services Act allocations pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892, gaps in service, and trends in unmet needs.

(7) The degree to which the inclusion of substance use disorders, substance use disorder treatment services, and substance use disorder personnel into the Behavioral Health Services Act has impacted the system of behavioral health care and the degree to which inclusion in the Behavioral Health Services Act has been initially successful.

(8) The effectiveness and outcomes achieved through the population-based prevention programs developed

and implemented by the State Department of Public Health.

(9) *The effectiveness and compliance by the counties with the revised reporting requirements under the act that added this section.*

(10) *The department's oversight of the revised Integrated Plan for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes and County Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report, including the use of corrective action plans or sanctions, or both.*

(11) *The coordination and collaboration occurring throughout the transition period between, but not limited to, the California Health and Human Services Agency, State Department of Health Care Services, Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, counties, and county behavioral health directors, and an identification of areas of improvement if warranted.*

(12) *Recommendations on any changes or improvements indicated by the audit pursuant to this section.*

(d) (1) *The California Health and Human Services Agency, State Department of Health Care Services, counties, and Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission staff shall cooperate with all requests of the California State Auditor to the extent such information is available and the State Department of Health Care Services, counties, and Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission shall provide data, information, and case files as requested by the California State Auditor to perform all of their duties, to the extent that information is available.*

(2) *The California State Auditor may also provide in its reports, additional information to either the department or the Legislature at their discretion or at the request of either the department or the Legislature.*

(e) *The California State Auditor shall, in making its recommendations, indicate the predicted quickest method of implementing those recommendations, including, but not limited to, regulatory or statutory changes.*

(f) *This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.*

(g) *This section shall become inoperative on June 30, 2036, and, as of January 1, 2037, is repealed.*

SEC. 110. Section 14197.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

14197.7. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, if the director finds that any entity that contracts with the department for the delivery of health care services (contractor), including a Medi-Cal managed care plan or a prepaid health plan, fails to comply with contract requirements, state or federal law or regulations, or the state plan or approved waivers, or for other good cause, the director may terminate the contract or impose

sanctions as set forth in this section. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, a finding of deficiency that results in improper denial or delay in the delivery of health care services, potential endangerment to patient care, disruption in the contractor's provider network, failure to approve continuity of care, that claims accrued or to accrue have not or will not be recompensed, or a delay in required contractor reporting to the department.

(b) The director may identify findings of noncompliance or good cause through any means, including, but not limited to, findings in audits, investigations, contract compliance reviews, quality improvement system monitoring, routine monitoring, facility site surveys, encounter and provider data submissions, grievances and appeals, network adequacy reviews, assessments of timely access requirements, reviews of utilization data, health plan rating systems, fair hearing decisions, complaints from beneficiaries and other stakeholders, whistleblowers, and contractor self-disclosures.

(c) Except when the director determines that there is an immediate threat to the health of Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving health care services from the contractor, at the request of the contractor, the department shall hold a public hearing to commence 30 days after notice of intent to terminate the contract has been received by the contractor. The department shall present evidence at the hearing showing good cause for the termination. The department shall assign an administrative law judge who shall provide a written recommendation to the department on the termination of the contract within 30 days after conclusion of the hearing. Reasonable notice of the hearing shall be given to the contractor, Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving services through the contractor, and other interested parties, including any other persons and organizations as the director may deem necessary. The notice shall state the effective date of, and the reason for, the termination.

(d) In lieu of contract termination, the director shall have the power and authority to require or impose a plan of correction and issue one or more of the following sanctions against a contractor for findings of noncompliance or good cause, including, but not limited to, those specified in subdivision (a):

(1) Temporarily or permanently suspend enrollment and marketing activities.

(2) Require the contractor to suspend or terminate contractor personnel or subcontractors.

(3) Issue one or more of the temporary suspension orders set forth in subdivision (j).

(4) Impose temporary management consistent with the requirements specified in Section 438.706 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) Suspend default enrollment of enrollees who do not select a contractor for the delivery of health care services.

(6) Impose civil monetary sanctions consistent with the dollar amounts and violations specified in Section 438.704 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

(A) A limit of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each determination of the following:

(i) The contractor fails to provide medically necessary services that the contractor is required to provide, under law or under its contract with the department, to an enrollee covered under the contract.

(ii) The contractor misrepresents or falsifies information to an enrollee, potential enrollee, or health care provider.

(iii) The contractor distributes directly, or indirectly through an agent or independent contractor, marketing materials that have not been approved by the state or that contain false or materially misleading information.

(B) A limit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for each determination of the following:

(i) The contractor conducts any act of discrimination against an enrollee on the basis of their health status or need for health care services. This includes termination of enrollment or refusal to reenroll a beneficiary, except as permitted under the Medicaid program, or any practice that would reasonably be expected to discourage enrollment by beneficiaries whose medical condition or history indicates probable need for substantial future medical services.

(ii) The contractor misrepresents or falsifies information that it furnishes to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or to the department.

(C) A limit of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for each beneficiary the director determines was not enrolled because of a discriminatory practice under clause (i) of subparagraph (B). This sanction is subject to the overall limit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) under subparagraph (B).

(e) Notwithstanding the monetary sanctions imposed for the violations set forth in paragraph (6) of subdivision (d), the director may impose monetary sanctions in accordance with this section based on any of the following:

(1) The contractor violates any federal or state statute or regulation.

(2) The contractor violates any provision of its contract with the department.

(3) The contractor violates any provision of the state plan or approved waivers.

(4) The contractor fails to meet quality metrics or benchmarks established by the department. Any changes to the minimum quality metrics or benchmarks made by the department that are effective on or after January 1, 2020, shall be established in advance of the applicable reporting or performance measurement period, unless required by the federal government.

(5) The contractor fails to demonstrate that it has an adequate network to meet anticipated utilization in its service area.

(6) The contractor fails to comply with network adequacy standards, including, but not limited to, time and distance, timely access, and provider-to-beneficiary ratio requirements pursuant to standards and formulae that are set forth in federal or state law, regulation, state plan or contract, and that are posted in advance to the department's internet website.

(7) The contractor fails to comply with the requirements of a corrective action plan.

(8) The contractor fails to submit timely and accurate network provider data.

(9) The director identifies deficiencies in the contractor's delivery of health care services.

(10) The director identifies deficiencies in the contractor's operations, including the timely payment of claims.

(11) The contractor fails to comply with reporting requirements, including, but not limited to, those set forth in Section 53862 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(12) The contractor fails to timely and accurately process grievances or appeals.

(f) (1) Monetary sanctions imposed pursuant to subdivision (e) may be separately and independently assessed and may also be assessed for each day the contractor fails to correct an identified deficiency. For a deficiency that impacts beneficiaries, each beneficiary impacted constitutes a separate violation. Monetary sanctions shall be assessed in the following amounts:

(A) Up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for a first violation.

(B) Up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a second violation.

(C) Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for each subsequent violation.

(2) For monetary sanctions imposed on a contractor that is funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n), the department shall calculate a percentage of the funds attributable to the contractor to be offset per month pursuant to paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) until the amount offset equals the amount of the penalty imposed pursuant to paragraph (1).

(g) When assessing sanctions pursuant to this section, the director shall determine the appropriate amount of the penalty for each violation based upon one or more of the following nonexclusive factors:

(1) The nature, scope, and gravity of the violation, including the potential harm or impact on beneficiaries.

(2) The good or bad faith of the contractor.

(3) The contractor's history of violations.

(4) The willfulness of the violation.

- (5) The nature and extent to which the contractor cooperated with the department's investigation.
- (6) The nature and extent to which the contractor aggravated or mitigated any injury or damage caused by the violation.
- (7) The nature and extent to which the contractor has taken corrective action to ensure the violation will not recur.
- (8) The financial status of the contractor, including whether the sanction will affect the ability of the contractor to come into compliance.
- (9) The financial cost of the health care service that was denied, delayed, or modified.
- (10) Whether the violation is an isolated incident.
- (11) The amount of the penalty necessary to deter similar violations in the future.
- (12) Any other mitigating factors presented by the contractor.
- (h) Except in exigent circumstances in which there is an immediate risk to the health of beneficiaries, as determined by the department, the director shall give reasonable written notice to the contractor of the intention to impose any of the sanctions authorized by this section and others who may be directly interested, including any other persons and organizations as the director may deem necessary. The notice shall include the effective date for, the duration of, and the reason for each sanction proposed by the director. A contractor may request the department to meet and confer with the contractor to discuss information and evidence that may impact the director's final decision to impose sanctions authorized by this section. The director shall grant a request to meet and confer prior to issuance of a final sanction if the contractor submits the request in writing to the department no later than two business days after the contractor's receipt of the director's notice of intention to impose sanctions.
- (i) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), the director shall terminate a contract with a contractor that the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined does not meet the requirements for participation in the Medicaid program contained in Subchapter XIX (commencing with Section 1396) of Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code.
- (j) (1) The department may make one or more of the following temporary suspension orders as an immediate sanction:
- (A) Temporarily suspend enrollment activities.
- (B) Temporarily suspend marketing activities.
- (C) Require the contractor to temporarily suspend specified personnel of the contractor.
- (D) Require the contractor to temporarily suspend participation by a specified subcontractor.
- (2) The temporary suspension orders shall be effective no earlier than 20 days after the notice specified in subdivision (k).

(k) Prior to issuing a temporary suspension order, or temporarily withholding funds pursuant to subdivision (o), the department shall provide the contractor with a written notice. The notice shall state the department's intent to impose a temporary suspension or temporary withhold, and specify the nature and effective date of the temporary suspension or temporary withhold. The contractor shall have 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the notice to file a written appeal with the department. Upon receipt of a written appeal filed by the contractor, the department shall ~~shall~~ *shall*, within 15 ~~days~~ *days*, set the matter for hearing, which shall be held as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of hearing by the contractor. The hearing may be continued at the request of the contractor if a continuance is necessary to permit presentation of an adequate defense. The temporary suspension order shall remain in effect until the hearing is completed and the department has made a final determination on the merits. However, the temporary suspension order shall be deemed vacated if the director fails to make a final determination on the merits within 60 days after the original hearing has been completed. The department shall stay imposition of a temporary withhold, pursuant to subdivision (o), until the hearing is completed and the department has made a final determination on the merits.

(l) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a contractor may request a hearing in connection with any sanctions applied pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) within 15 working days after the notice of the effective date of the sanctions has been given, by sending a letter so stating to the address specified in the notice. The department shall stay collection of monetary sanctions upon receipt of the request for a hearing. Collection of the sanction shall remain stayed until the effective date of the final decision of the department.

(2) With respect to mental health plans, the due process and appeals process specified in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 14718 shall be made available in connection with any contract termination actions, temporary suspension orders, temporary withholds of funds pursuant to subdivision (o), and sanctions applied pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e).

(m) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all hearings to review the imposition of sanctions, including temporary suspension orders, the withholding or offsetting of funds pursuant to subdivision (n), or the temporary withholding of funds pursuant to subdivision (o), shall be held pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 100171 of the Health and Safety Code.

(n) (1) If the director imposes monetary sanctions pursuant to this section on a contractor, except for a contractor described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, the amount of the sanction may be collected by withholding the amount from capitation or other associated payments owed to the contractor.

(2) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from the Mental Health Subaccount, the Mental Health Equity Subaccount, the

Vehicle License Collection Account of the Local Revenue Fund, or the Mental Health Account, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from the respective account. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(3) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from the Behavioral Health Subaccount of the Local Revenue Fund 2011, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from that account from the distribution attributable to the applicable contractor. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(4) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from any other mental health or substance use disorder realignment funds from which the Controller is authorized to make distributions to the contractor, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from these funds if the funds described in paragraphs (2) and (3) are insufficient for the purposes described in this subdivision, as appropriate. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(o) (1) Whenever the department determines that a mental health plan or any entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services has violated state or federal law, a requirement of this chapter, Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 14600), or Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700), or any regulations, the state plan, or a term or condition of an approved waiver, or a provision of its contract with the department, the department may temporarily withhold payments of federal financial participation and payments from the accounts listed in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n). The department shall temporarily withhold amounts it deems necessary to ensure the mental health plan or the entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services promptly corrects the violation. The department shall release the temporarily withheld funds when it determines the mental health plan or the entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services has come into compliance.

(2) A mental health plan, or any entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services, may appeal the imposition of a temporary withhold pursuant to this subdivision in accordance with the procedures described in subdivisions (k) and (m). Imposition of a temporary withhold shall be stayed until the effective date of the final decision of the department.

(p) This section shall be read in conjunction with, and apply in addition to, any other applicable law that authorizes the department to impose sanctions or otherwise take remedial action upon contractors.

(q) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, nonfederal moneys collected by the department pursuant to this section, except for moneys collected from a contractor funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n), shall be deposited into the General

Fund for use, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, to address workforce issues in the Medi-Cal program and to improve access to care in the Medi-Cal program.

(2) Monetary sanctions imposed via offset on a contractor that is funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) shall be redeposited into the account from which the monetary sanctions were offset pursuant to paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n). The department shall notify the Department of Finance of the percentage reduction for the affected county. The Department of Finance shall subsequently notify the Controller, and the Controller shall redistribute the monetary sanction amount to nonsanctioned counties based on each county's prorated share of the monthly base allocations from the realigned account. With respect to an individual contractor, the department shall not collect via offset more than 25 percent of the total amount of the funds distributed from the applicable account or accounts that are attributable to the contractor in a given month. If the department is not able to collect the full amount of monetary sanctions imposed on a contractor funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) in a given month, the department shall continue to offset the amounts attributable to the contractor in subsequent months until the full amount of monetary sanctions has been collected.

(r) (1) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this section, in whole or in part, by means of plan or county letters, information notices, plan or provider bulletins, or other similar instructions, without taking any further regulatory action.

(2) By July 1, 2025, the department shall adopt any regulations necessary to implement this section in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(s) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that any necessary federal approvals have been obtained and that federal financial participation is available.

(t) For purposes of this section, "contractor" means any individual, organization, or entity that enters into a contract with the department to provide services to enrolled Medi-Cal beneficiaries pursuant to any of the following:

(1) Article 2.7 (commencing with Section 14087.3), including dental managed care programs developed pursuant to Section 14087.46.

(2) Article 2.8 (commencing with Section 14087.5).

(3) Article 2.81 (commencing with Section 14087.96).

(4) Article 2.82 (commencing with Section 14087.98).

- (5) Article 2.9 (commencing with Section 14088).
- (6) Article 2.91 (commencing with Section 14089).
- (7) Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), including dental managed care plans.
- (8) Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700).
- (9) A county Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system authorized under the California Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 14184) or a successor demonstration or waiver, as applicable.
- (u) If amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election, this section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.*

SEC. 111. Section 14197.7 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

14197.7. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, if the director finds that an entity that contracts with the department for the delivery of health care services (contractor), including a Medi-Cal managed care plan or a prepaid health plan, fails to comply with contract requirements, state or federal law or regulations, or the state plan or approved waivers, or for other good cause, the director may terminate the contract or impose sanctions as set forth in this section.

(2) Good cause includes, but is not limited to, a finding of deficiency that results in improper denial or delay in the delivery of health care services, potential endangerment to patient care, disruption in the contractor's provider network, failure to approve continuity of care, that claims accrued or to accrue have not or will not be recompensed, or a delay in required contractor reporting to the department.

(b) The director may identify findings of noncompliance or good cause through any means, including, but not limited to, findings in audits, investigations, contract compliance reviews, quality improvement system monitoring, routine monitoring, facility site surveys, encounter and provider data submissions, grievances and appeals, network adequacy reviews, assessments of timely access requirements, reviews of utilization data, health plan rating systems, fair hearing decisions, complaints from beneficiaries and other stakeholders, whistleblowers, and contractor self-disclosures.

(c) (1) Except when the director determines there is an immediate threat to the health of Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving health care services from the contractor, at the request of the contractor, the department shall hold a public hearing to commence 30 days after notice of intent to terminate the contract has been received by the contractor.

(2) The department shall present evidence at the hearing showing good cause for the termination.

(3) The department shall assign an administrative law judge who shall provide a written recommendation to the department on the termination of the contract within 30 days after conclusion of the hearing.

(4) (A) Reasonable notice of the hearing shall be given to the contractor, Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving services through the contractor, and other interested parties, including any other person and organization the director may deem necessary.

(B) The notice shall state the effective date of, and the reason for, the termination.

(d) In lieu of contract termination, the director shall have the power and authority to require or impose a plan of correction and issue one or more of the following sanctions against a contractor for findings of noncompliance or good cause, including, but not limited to, those specified in subdivision (a):

(1) Temporarily or permanently suspend enrollment and marketing activities.

(2) Require the contractor to suspend or terminate contractor personnel or subcontractors.

(3) Issue one or more of the temporary suspension orders set forth in subdivision (j).

(4) Impose temporary management consistent with the requirements specified in Section 438.706 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) Suspend default enrollment of enrollees who do not select a contractor for the delivery of health care services.

(6) Impose civil monetary sanctions consistent with the dollar amounts and violations specified in Section 438.704 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

(A) A limit of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each determination of the following:

(i) The contractor fails to provide medically necessary services that the contractor is required to provide, under law or under its contract with the department, to an enrollee covered under the contract.

(ii) The contractor misrepresents or falsifies information to an enrollee, potential enrollee, or health care provider.

(iii) The contractor distributes directly, or indirectly through an agent or independent contractor, marketing materials that have not been approved by the state or that contain false or materially misleading information.

(B) A limit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for each determination of the following:

(i) The contractor conducts an act of discrimination against an enrollee on the basis of their health status or need for health care services. This includes termination of enrollment or refusal to reenroll a beneficiary, except as permitted under the Medicaid program, or a practice that would reasonably be expected to discourage enrollment by beneficiaries whose medical condition or history indicates probable need for substantial future medical services.

(ii) The contractor misrepresents or falsifies information that it furnishes to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or to the department.

(C) A limit of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for each beneficiary the director determines was not enrolled because of a discriminatory practice under clause (i) of subparagraph (B). This sanction is subject to the overall limit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) under subparagraph (B).

(e) Notwithstanding the monetary sanctions imposed for the violations set forth in paragraph (6) of subdivision (d), the director may impose monetary sanctions in accordance with this section based on any of the following:

(1) The contractor violates a federal or state statute or regulation.

(2) The contractor violates a provision of its contract with the department.

(3) The contractor violates a provision of the state plan or approved waivers.

(4) The contractor fails to meet quality metrics or benchmarks established by the department. Any changes to the minimum quality metrics or benchmarks made by the department that are effective on or after January 1, 2020, shall be established in advance of the applicable reporting or performance measurement period, unless required by the federal government.

(5) The contractor fails to demonstrate that it has an adequate network to meet anticipated utilization in its service area.

(6) The contractor fails to comply with network adequacy standards, including, but not limited to, time and distance, timely access, and provider-to-beneficiary ratio requirements pursuant to standards and formulae that are set forth in federal or state law, regulation, state plan, or contract and that are posted in advance to the department's internet website.

(7) The contractor fails to comply with the requirements of a corrective action plan.

(8) The contractor fails to submit timely and accurate network provider data.

(9) The director identifies deficiencies in the contractor's delivery of health care services.

(10) The director identifies deficiencies in the contractor's operations, including the timely payment of claims.

(11) The contractor fails to comply with reporting requirements, including, but not limited to, those set forth in Section 53862 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(12) The contractor fails to timely and accurately process grievances or appeals.

(f) (1) Monetary sanctions imposed pursuant to subdivision (e) may be separately and independently assessed and may also be assessed for each day the contractor fails to correct an identified deficiency. For a deficiency that impacts beneficiaries, each beneficiary impacted constitutes a separate violation. Monetary sanctions shall be assessed in the following amounts:

(A) Up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for a first violation.

(B) Up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a second violation.

(C) Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for each subsequent violation.

(2) For monetary sanctions imposed on a contractor that is funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n), the department shall calculate a percentage of the funds attributable to the contractor to be offset per month pursuant to paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) until the amount offset equals the amount of the penalty imposed pursuant to paragraph (1).

(g) When assessing sanctions pursuant to this section, the director shall determine the appropriate amount of the penalty for each violation based upon one or more of the following nonexclusive factors:

(1) The nature, scope, and gravity of the violation, including the potential harm or impact on beneficiaries.

(2) The good or bad faith of the contractor.

(3) The contractor's history of violations.

(4) The willfulness of the violation.

(5) The nature and extent to which the contractor cooperated with the department's investigation.

(6) The nature and extent to which the contractor aggravated or mitigated any injury or damage caused by the violation.

(7) The nature and extent to which the contractor has taken corrective action to ensure the violation will not recur.

(8) The financial status of the contractor, including whether the sanction will affect the ability of the contractor to come into compliance.

(9) The financial cost of the health care service that was denied, delayed, or modified.

(10) Whether the violation is an isolated incident.

(11) The amount of the penalty necessary to deter similar violations in the future.

(12) Other mitigating factors presented by the contractor.

(h) (1) Except in exigent circumstances in which there is an immediate risk to the health of beneficiaries, as determined by the department, the director shall give reasonable written notice to the contractor of the intention to impose any of the sanctions authorized by this section and others who may be directly interested, including any other persons and organizations the director may deem necessary.

(2) The notice shall include the effective date for, the duration of, and the reason for each sanction proposed by the director.

(3) A contractor may request the department to meet and confer with the contractor to discuss information

and evidence that may impact the director's final decision to impose sanctions authorized by this section.

(4) The director shall grant a request to meet and confer prior to issuance of a final sanction if the contractor submits the request in writing to the department no later than two business days after the contractor's receipt of the director's notice of intention to impose sanctions.

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (d), the director shall terminate a contract with a contractor that the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined does not meet the requirements for participation in the Medicaid program contained in Subchapter XIX (commencing with Section 1396) of Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

(j) (1) The department may make one or more of the following temporary suspension orders as an immediate sanction:

(A) Temporarily suspend enrollment activities.

(B) Temporarily suspend marketing activities.

(C) Require the contractor to temporarily suspend specified personnel of the contractor.

(D) Require the contractor to temporarily suspend participation by a specified subcontractor.

(2) The temporary suspension orders shall be effective no earlier than 20 days after the notice specified in subdivision (k).

(k) (1) Prior to issuing a temporary suspension order, or temporarily withholding funds pursuant to subdivision (o), the department shall provide the contractor with a written notice.

(2) The notice shall state the department's intent to impose a temporary suspension or temporary withhold and specify the nature and effective date of the temporary suspension or temporary withhold.

(3) The contractor shall have 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the notice to file a written appeal with the department.

(4) Upon receipt of a written appeal filed by the contractor, the department shall, within 15 days, set the matter for hearing, which shall be held as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of hearing by the contractor.

(5) The hearing may be continued at the request of the contractor if a continuance is necessary to permit presentation of an adequate defense.

(6) The temporary suspension order shall remain in effect until the hearing is completed and the department has made a final determination on the merits. However, the temporary suspension order shall be deemed vacated if the director fails to make a final determination on the merits within 60 days of the close of the record for the matter.

(7) The department shall stay imposition of a temporary withhold, pursuant to subdivision (o), until the hearing is completed and the department has made

a final determination on the merits within 60 days of the close of the record for the matter.

(l) (1) A contractor may request a hearing in connection with sanctions applied pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) within 15 working days after the notice of the effective date of the sanctions has been given by sending a letter so stating to the address specified in the notice.

(2) The department shall stay collection of monetary sanctions upon receipt of the request for a hearing.

(3) Collection of the sanction shall remain stayed until the effective date of the final decision of the department.

(m) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all hearings to review the imposition of sanctions, including temporary suspension orders, the withholding or offsetting of funds pursuant to subdivision (n), or the temporary withholding of funds pursuant to subdivision (o) shall be held pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 100171 of the Health and Safety Code.

(n) (1) If the director imposes monetary sanctions pursuant to this section on a contractor, except for a contractor described in paragraphs (2) to (5), inclusive, the amount of the sanction may be collected by withholding the amount from capitation or other associated payments owed to the contractor.

(2) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from the Mental Health Subaccount, the Mental Health Equity Subaccount, the Vehicle License Collection Account of the Local Revenue Fund, or the Mental Health Account, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from the respective account. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(3) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from the Behavioral Health Subaccount of the Local Revenue Fund 2011, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from that account from the distribution attributable to the applicable contractor. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(4) If the director imposes monetary sanctions on a contractor that is funded from another mental health or substance use disorder realignment fund from which the Controller is authorized to make distributions to the contractor, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from these funds if the funds described in paragraphs (2) and (3) are insufficient for the purposes described in this subdivision, as appropriate. The offset is subject to paragraph (2) of subdivision (q).

(5) (A) If the director imposes monetary sanctions pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5963.04, the director may offset the monetary sanctions from the Behavioral Health Services Fund from the distribution attributable to the applicable contractor.

(B) With respect to an individual contractor, the department shall not collect via offset more than 25 percent of the total amount of the funds distributed

from the Behavioral Health Services Fund that are attributable to the contractor in a given month.

(C) If the department is not able to collect the full amount of monetary sanctions imposed on a contractor in a given month, the department shall continue to offset the amounts attributable to the contractor in subsequent months until the full amount of monetary sanctions has been collected. The offset is subject to paragraph (3) of subdivision (q).

(o) (1) (A) Whenever the department determines that a mental health plan or an entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services has violated state or federal law, a requirement of this chapter, Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 14600), or Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700), or any regulations, the state plan, a term or condition of an approved waiver, or a provision of its contract with the department, the department may temporarily withhold payments of federal financial participation and payments from the accounts listed in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n).

(B) The department shall temporarily withhold amounts it deems necessary to ensure the mental health plan or the entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services promptly corrects the violation.

(C) The department shall release the temporarily withheld funds when it determines the mental health plan or the entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services has come into compliance.

(2) (A) A mental health plan or an entity that contracts with the department to provide Drug Medi-Cal services may appeal the imposition of a temporary withhold pursuant to this subdivision in accordance with the procedures described in subdivisions (k) and (m).

(B) Imposition of a temporary withhold shall be stayed until the effective date of the final decision of the department.

(p) This section shall be read in conjunction with, and apply in addition to, any other applicable law that authorizes the department to impose sanctions or otherwise take remedial action upon contractors.

(q) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, nonfederal moneys collected by the department pursuant to this section, except for moneys collected from a contractor funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n), shall be deposited into the General Fund for use and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to address workforce issues in the Medi-Cal program and improve access to care in the Medi-Cal program.

(2) (A) Monetary sanctions imposed via offset on a contractor that is funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) shall be redeposited into the account from which the monetary sanctions were offset

pursuant to paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n).

(B) The department shall notify the Department of Finance of the percentage reduction for the affected county.

(C) The Department of Finance shall subsequently notify the Controller, and the Controller shall redistribute the monetary sanction amount to nonsanctioned counties based on each county's prorated share of the monthly base allocations from the realigned account.

(D) With respect to an individual contractor, the department shall not collect via offset more than 25 percent of the total amount of the funds distributed from the applicable account or accounts that are attributable to the contractor in a given month.

(E) If the department is not able to collect the full amount of monetary sanctions imposed on a contractor funded from one or more of the realigned accounts described in paragraphs (2) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (n) in a given month, the department shall continue to offset the amounts attributable to the contractor in subsequent months until the full amount of monetary sanctions has been collected.

(3) Monetary sanctions imposed via offset on a contractor pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5963.04 shall be redeposited into the account from which the monetary sanctions were offset pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (n).

(r) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, or make specific this section, in whole or in part, by means of plan or county letters, information notices, plan or provider bulletins, or other similar instructions without taking any further regulatory action.

(s) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that necessary federal approvals have been obtained and that federal financial participation is available.

(t) For purposes of this section, "contractor" means an individual, organization, or entity that enters into a contract with the department to provide services to enrolled Medi-Cal beneficiaries or other individuals receiving behavioral health services, as applicable, pursuant to any of the following:

(1) Article 2.7 (commencing with Section 14087.3), including dental managed care programs developed pursuant to Section 14087.46.

(2) Article 2.8 (commencing with Section 14087.5).

(3) Article 2.81 (commencing with Section 14087.96).

(4) Article 2.82 (commencing with Section 14087.98).

(5) Article 2.9 (commencing with Section 14088).

(6) Article 2.91 (commencing with Section 14089).

(7) Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), including dental managed care plans.

(8) Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700).

(9) A county Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system authorized under the California Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 14184) or a successor demonstration or waiver, as applicable.

(10) Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5650) of Part 2 of Division 5, solely for purposes of imposition of corrective action plans, monetary sanctions, or temporary withholdings pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5963.04.

(11) Section 12534 of the Government Code.

(u) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2025, if amendments to the Mental Health Services Act are approved by the voters at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

SEC. 112. Section 14197.71 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

14197.71. (a) The department may, at its discretion, align relevant terms of its contract with a Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system with the terms of its contract with a Medi-Cal managed care plan, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, for those requirements that apply to both entities. Requirements that apply to both entities include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Organization and administration of the plan, including key administrative staffing requirements.

(2) Financial information.

(3) Information systems.

(4) Quality improvement systems.

(5) Utilization management.

(6) Provider network.

(7) Provider compensation arrangements.

(8) Provider oversight and monitoring.

(9) Access and availability of services, including, but not limited to, reporting of waitlists for behavioral health services or attesting to no waitlists.

(10) Care coordination and data sharing.

(11) Member services.

(12) Member grievances and appeals data.

(13) Reporting requirements.

(14) Other contractual requirements determined by the department.

(b) The department shall establish minimum quality metrics to measure and evaluate the quality and efficacy of services and programs covered under Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems.

(c) (1) Each Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system shall report annually to the county board of supervisors on utilization, quality, patient care expenditures, and other data as determined by the department.

(2) The board of supervisors shall annually submit an attestation to the department that the county is meeting its obligations to provide realigned programs and services pursuant to clauses (i), (iv), and (v) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (16) of subdivision (f) of Section 30025 of the Government Code.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other state or local law, including, but not limited to, Section 5328 of this code and Sections 11812 and 11845.5 of the Health and Safety Code, the sharing of health, social services, housing, and criminal justice information, records, and other data with and among the department, other state departments, including the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Social Services, Medi-Cal managed care plans, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 14184.101, Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 14184.101, counties, health care providers, social services organizations, care coordination and case management teams, and other authorized provider or plan entities, and contractors of all of those entities, shall be permitted to the extent necessary and consistent with federal law.

(2) The department shall issue guidance identifying permissible data-sharing arrangements.

(e) For purposes of this section, the term "Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system" means an entity or local agency that contracts with the department to provide covered behavioral health Medi-Cal benefits pursuant to Section 14184.400 and Chapter 8.9 (commencing with Section 14700) or a county Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System pilot authorized under the CalAIM Terms and Conditions and described in Section 14184.401 or authorized under the Medi-Cal 2020 Demonstration Project Act pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 14184).

(f) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that necessary federal approvals have been obtained and federal financial participation is available and not otherwise jeopardized.

(g) The department shall implement this section no later than January 1, 2027.

SEC. 116. The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this act. The Legislature declares that it would have enacted this act and each portion thereof not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this act or its application thereof would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SEC. 117. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025, upon approval by the voters of the amendments to the Mental Health Services Act at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

BOND ACT PROVISIONS PROPOSED BY
CHAPTER 789 OF THE STATUTES OF 2023

SEC. 4. Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 5965) is added to Part 7 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE
BOND ACT OF 2024

5965. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024.

5965.01. The purposes and intent in enacting this act are as follows:

(a) Bonds issued under this act are to develop an array of treatment, residential care settings, and supportive housing to help provide appropriate care facilities for Californians experiencing mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

(b) The bond will dedicate funding for veterans with a behavioral health challenge or substance use disorder and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

(c) Efforts to streamline the process for approving projects and renovating or building new facilities to accelerate the delivery of care in residential settings made available through additional Behavioral Health Services Act and bond financing is a priority.

5965.02. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Act" means the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024 (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 5965)).

(b) "Behavioral health challenge" includes, but is not limited to, serious mental illness, as described in subdivision (c) or (d) of Section 14184.402, or a substance use disorder, as described in Section 5891.5.

(c) "Board" means, with respect to the bond proceeds referenced in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, and with respect to and for requests up to the amount specified for bond proceeds referenced in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, for purposes of Section 5965.12 of this code and Section 16726 of the Government Code, the State Department of Health Care Services, and with respect to bond proceeds referenced in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, and, with respect to and for requests up to the amount specified for bond proceeds referenced in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, for purposes of Section 5965.12 of this code and Section 16726 of the Government Code, the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(d) "Committee" means the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act Finance Committee created pursuant to Section 5965.07.

(e) "Fund" means the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Fund created pursuant to Section 5965.03.

(f) "State General Obligation Bond Law" means the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4

(commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code), as it may be amended.

(g) "Target population" means a person described in subdivision (c) or (d) of Section 14184.402, or a person with a substance use disorder, as described in Section 5891.5, except that enrollment in Medi-Cal or in any other health plan shall not be a condition for accessing housing or continuing to be housed.

(h) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

5965.03. (a) The proceeds of interim debt and bonds, excluding proceeds used directly to repay interim debt and excluding bonds issued in accordance with Section 5965.14, issued and sold pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury.

(b) All moneys in the fund, notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, are hereby continuously appropriated without respect to fiscal years for the purposes of this chapter.

(c) Bonds shall be issued and delivered in the amount determined by the committee to be necessary or desirable pursuant to Section 5965.08.

5965.04. (a) Moneys in the fund shall be used for any of the following purposes:

(1) Making loans or grants administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development to eligible entities specified under Section 50675.1.3 of the Health and Safety Code or loans to development sponsors as defined under Section 50675.2 of the Health and Safety Code to acquire capital assets for the conversion, rehabilitation, or new construction of permanent supportive housing, including scattered site projects, for veterans or their households, who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, as defined by Part 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and meet the criteria of the target population.

(2) Making loans or grants administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development to eligible entities specified under Section 50675.1.3 of the Health and Safety Code or loans to development sponsors as defined under Section 50675.2 of the Health and Safety Code to acquire capital assets for the conversion, rehabilitation, or new construction of permanent supportive housing, including scattered site projects for persons who are homeless, chronically homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, as defined by Part 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and are living with a behavioral health challenge.

(3) Making grants administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, as specified under the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program to eligible entities specified pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 5960) to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets or

to invest in needed infrastructure to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment resources to build new capacity or expand existing capacity for short-term crisis stabilization, acute and subacute care, crisis residential, community-based mental health residential, substance use disorder residential, peer respite, community and outpatient behavioral health services, and other clinically enriched longer term treatment and rehabilitation options for persons with behavioral health disorders in the least restrictive and least costly setting.

(4) (A) Paying the costs of issuing bonds, paying the annual administration costs of the bonds, and paying interest on bonds.

(B) In addition, moneys in the fund or other proceeds of the sale of bonds authorized by this chapter may be used to pay principal of, or redemption premium on, interim debt issued prior to the issuance of bonds authorized by this chapter.

(b) Moneys in the fund shall be allocated as follows:

(1) One billion sixty-five million dollars (\$1,065,000,000) of the proceeds of the bonds, after allocation of bond proceeds to the purposes described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), shall be used for the loans or grants, loan or grant implementation, and loan or grant oversight described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) and administrative costs.

(2) Nine hundred twenty-two million dollars (\$922,000,000) of the proceeds of the bonds, after allocation of bond proceeds to the purposes described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), shall be used for the loans or grants, loan or grant implementation, and loan or grant oversight, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), and administrative costs.

(3) One billion five hundred million dollars (\$1,500,000,000) of the proceeds of the bonds shall be awarded to cities, counties, city and counties, and tribal entities, after allocation of bond proceeds to the purposes described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) for grants, grant implementation, and grant oversight, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), and administrative costs. Of this amount, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) shall be designated to tribal entities.

(4) Up to two billion eight hundred ninety-three million dollars (\$2,893,000,000) of the proceeds of the bonds, after allocation of bond proceeds to the purposes of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), shall be used for grants, grant implementation, and grant oversight, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), and administrative costs.

5965.05. (a) (1) Bonds in the total amount of six billion three hundred eighty million dollars (\$6,380,000,000) not including the amount of refunding bonds issued in accordance with Section 5965.14, may be issued and sold for the purposes expressed in this chapter and to reimburse the General Obligation Bond Expense Revolving Fund pursuant to Section 16724.5 of the Government Code.

(2) The bonds, when sold, issued, and delivered, shall be and constitute a valid and binding obligation of the State of California, and the full faith and credit of the State of California is hereby pledged for the punctual payment of both the principal of, and interest on, the bonds as the principal and interest become due and payable.

(b) (1) The Treasurer shall issue and sell the bonds authorized in subdivision (a) in the amount determined by the committee to be necessary or desirable pursuant to Section 5965.08. The bonds shall be issued and sold upon the terms and conditions specified in a resolution to be adopted by the committee pursuant to Section 16731 of the Government Code.

(2) The bonds shall be issued and sold upon the terms and conditions specified in a resolution to be adopted by the committee pursuant to Section 5965.08.

5965.06. The bonds authorized by this chapter shall be prepared, executed, issued, sold, paid, and redeemed as provided in the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code), as amended, from time to time, and all of the provisions of that law, as amended, apply to the bonds and to this chapter and are hereby incorporated in this chapter as though set forth in full in this chapter, except that subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 16727 of the Government Code shall not apply.

5965.07. (a) Solely for the purpose of authorizing the issuance and sale, pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, of the bonds authorized by this chapter, the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act Finance Committee is hereby created.

(b) (1) The committee consists of the Controller, the Treasurer, and the Director of Finance.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, a member may designate a representative to act as that member in the member's place, for all purposes, as though the member were personally present.

(c) (1) The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

(2) A majority of the committee may act for the committee.

5965.08. (a) The committee shall determine, by resolution, whether it is necessary or desirable to issue and sell bonds authorized pursuant to this chapter to carry out the actions specified in this chapter and, if so, the amount of bonds to be issued and sold.

(b) Successive issues of bonds may be authorized and sold to carry out those actions progressively, and it is not necessary that all of the bonds authorized to be issued be sold at any one time.

5965.09. (a) There shall be collected each year, and in the same manner and at the same time as other state revenue is collected, in addition to the ordinary revenues of the state, a sum in an amount required to pay the principal of, and interest on, the bonds becoming due each year.

(b) *It is the duty of all officers charged by law with a duty in regard to the collection of the revenue to do and perform each and every act that is necessary to collect that additional sum.*

5965.10. *Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, there is hereby continuously appropriated from the General Fund in the State Treasury, for the purposes of this chapter and without regard to fiscal years, an amount that equals the total of the following:*

(a) *The sum annually necessary to pay the principal of, and interest on, bonds issued and sold pursuant to this chapter, as the principal and interest become due and payable.*

(b) *The sum necessary to carry out Section 5965.11.*

5965.11. (a) *For the purpose of carrying out this chapter, the Director of Finance may authorize the withdrawal from the General Fund of an amount or amounts not to exceed the amount of the unsold bonds that have been authorized by the committee to be sold for the purpose of carrying out this chapter, excluding refunding bonds authorized pursuant to Section 5965.14 less any amount loaned pursuant to Section 5965.12 and not yet repaid, and any amount withdrawn from the General Fund pursuant to this section and not yet returned to the General Fund.*

(b) *Any amounts withdrawn shall be deposited in the fund.*

(c) *Any moneys made available under this section shall be returned to the General Fund, with interest at the rate earned by the moneys in the Pooled Money Investment Account, from proceeds received from the sale of bonds for the purpose of carrying out this chapter.*

5965.12. (a) *The board may request the Pooled Money Investment Board to make a loan from the Pooled Money Investment Account, in accordance with Section 16312 of the Government Code, for the purpose of carrying out this chapter.*

(b) *The amount of the request shall not exceed the amount of the unsold bonds that the committee has, by resolution, authorized to be sold for the purpose of carrying out this chapter, excluding refunding bonds authorized pursuant to Section 5965.14, less any amount loaned pursuant to this section and not yet repaid and withdrawn from the General Fund pursuant to Section 5965.11 and not yet returned to the General Fund.*

(c) *The board shall execute documents required by the Pooled Money Investment Board to obtain and repay the loan.*

(d) *Any amounts loaned shall be deposited in the fund to be allocated by the board in accordance with this chapter.*

5965.13. *All moneys deposited in the fund that are derived from premium and accrued interest on bonds sold pursuant to this chapter shall be reserved in the fund and shall be available for transfer to the General*

Fund as a credit to expenditures for bond interest, except that amounts derived from premium may be reserved and used to pay costs of bond issuance before any transfer to the General Fund.

5965.14. (a) *The bonds issued and sold pursuant to this chapter may be refunded in accordance with Article 6 (commencing with Section 16780) of Chapter 4 of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code, which is a part of the State General Obligation Bond Law.*

(b) *Approval by the voters of the state for the issuance of the bonds described in this chapter includes the approval of the issuance of bonds issued to refund bonds originally issued under this chapter or any previously issued refunding bonds.*

(c) *A bond refunded with the proceeds of refunding bonds, as authorized by this section, may be legally defeased to the extent permitted by law in the manner and to the extent set forth in the resolution, as amended, authorizing that refunded bond.*

5965.15. (a) *Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or the State General Obligation Bond Law, if the Treasurer sells bonds pursuant to this chapter that include a bond counsel opinion to the effect that the interest on the bonds is excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes, under designated conditions, or is otherwise entitled to a federal tax advantage, the Treasurer may maintain separate accounts for the investment of bond proceeds and the investment earnings on those proceeds.*

(b) *The Treasurer may use or direct the use of those proceeds or earnings to pay a rebate, penalty, or other payment required under federal law or to take any other action with respect to the investment and use of those bond proceeds, required or desirable under federal law, to maintain the tax-exempt status of those bonds and to obtain any other advantage under federal law on behalf of the funds of this state.*

5965.16. *The proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this chapter are not "proceeds of taxes" as that term is used in Article XIII B of the California Constitution, and the disbursement of these proceeds is not subject to the limitations imposed by that article.*

5966. (a) (1) *The Department of Housing and Community Development, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall determine the methodology and distribution of the funds provided pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, used for the purposes provided in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04.*

(2) *The Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs shall work in coordination pursuant to a memorandum of understanding.*

(b) *The Department of Housing and Community Development shall determine the methodology and distribution of the funds provided pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04,*

used for the purposes provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04.

5966.02. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, funds allocated for the purposes specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04 shall be disbursed in accordance with subdivisions (a) to (h), inclusive, of Section 50675.1.3 of the Health and Safety Code and any associated guidelines changes to that program, as provided in the Multifamily Housing Program in Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 50675) of Part 2 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, and this chapter, consistent with applicable law and guidance.

(2) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue guidance regarding implementation by July 1, 2025.

(b) In developing the methodology and distribution of funds referenced in subdivision (a) of Section 5966, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs

regarding supportive services plan standards and other program areas where the Department of Veterans Affairs holds expertise for the purposes specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04.

5967. The Department of Health Care Services shall determine the methodology and distribution of the funds provided pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 5965.04, used for the purposes provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04.

5967.01. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, funds allocated for the purposes specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5965.04 shall be disbursed in accordance with the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (commencing with Section 5960), and this chapter, consistent with applicable law and guidance.

(b) The Department of Health Care Services shall issue guidance regarding the implementation of this article by July 1, 2025.

WARNING: ELECTIONEERING PROHIBITED!

VIOLATIONS CAN LEAD TO FINES AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

WHERE:

- Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting or drop box the following activities are prohibited.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:

- **DO NOT** ask a person to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure.
- **DO NOT** display a candidate's name, image, or logo.
- **DO NOT** block access to or loiter near any ballot drop boxes.
- **DO NOT** provide any material or audible information for or against any candidate or ballot measure near any polling place, vote center, or ballot drop box.
- **DO NOT** circulate any petitions, including for initiatives, referenda, recall, or candidate nominations.
- **DO NOT** distribute, display, or wear any clothing (hats, shirts, signs, buttons, stickers) that include a candidate's name, image, logo, and/or support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure.
- **DO NOT** display information or speak to a voter about the voter's eligibility to vote.

The electioneering prohibitions summarized above are set forth in Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Division 18 of the California Elections Code.

WARNING: CORRUPTING THE VOTING PROCESS IS PROHIBITED!

VIOLATIONS SUBJECT TO FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:

- **DO NOT** commit or attempt to commit election fraud.
- **DO NOT** provide any sort of compensation or bribery to, in any fashion or by any means induce or attempt to induce, a person to vote or refrain from voting.
- **DO NOT** illegally vote.
- **DO NOT** attempt to vote or aid another to vote when not entitled to vote.
- **DO NOT** engage in electioneering; photograph or record a voter entering or exiting a polling place; or obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.
- **DO NOT** challenge a person's right to vote or prevent voters from voting; delay the process of voting; or fraudulently advise any person that he or she is not eligible to vote or is not registered to vote.
- **DO NOT** attempt to ascertain how a voter voted their ballot.
- **DO NOT** possess or arrange for someone to possess a firearm in the immediate vicinity of a polling place, with some exceptions.
- **DO NOT** appear or arrange for someone to appear in the uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel in the immediate vicinity of a polling place, with some exceptions.
- **DO NOT** tamper or interfere with any component of a voting system.
- **DO NOT** forge, counterfeit, or tamper with the returns of an election.
- **DO NOT** alter the returns of an election.
- **DO NOT** tamper with, destroy, or alter any polling list, official ballot, or ballot container.
- **DO NOT** display any unofficial ballot collection container that may deceive a voter into believing it is an official collection box.
- **DO NOT** tamper or interfere with copy of the results of votes cast.
- **DO NOT** coerce or deceive a person who cannot read or an elder into voting for or against a candidate or measure contrary to their intent.
- **DO NOT** act as an election officer when you are not one.

EMPLOYERS cannot require or ask their employee to bring their vote-by-mail ballot to work or ask their employee to vote their ballot at work. At the time of payment of salary or wages, employers cannot enclose materials that attempt to influence the political opinions or actions of their employee.

PRECINCT BOARD MEMBERS cannot attempt to determine how a voter voted their ballot or, if that information is discovered, disclose how a voter voted their ballot.

The prohibitions on activity related to corruption of the voting process summarized above are set forth in Chapter 6 of Division 18 of the California Elections Code.



The California Motor Voter program is making registering to vote at the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) more convenient and secure. All eligible individuals completing driver's license, ID card, or change of address transactions online, by mail, or in person at the DMV will be automatically registered to vote unless they choose to "opt out" of automatic voter registration.

The California Motor Voter program applies to Californians who are 18 years or older and meet all the following criteria:

- A United States citizen.
- A resident of California.
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony.
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

Voter pre-registration is available for those 16 and 17 years of age. Their voter registration will become active automatically when they turn 18.

For more information, visit motorvoter.sos.ca.gov.

To register to vote online, visit registertovote.ca.gov.

Voter Registration Privacy Information

Safe at Home Confidential Voter Registration Program: Certain voters facing life-threatening situations (i.e., victims and survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder/dependent adult abuse) may qualify for confidential voter status if they are active members of the Safe at Home program. For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program toll-free at (877) 322-5227 or visit sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home/.

Voter Information Privacy: Information on your voter registration affidavit will be used by elections officials to send you official information on the voting process, such as the location of your polling place, and the measures and candidates that will appear on the ballot. Commercial use of voter registration information is prohibited by law and is a misdemeanor. Voter information may be provided to a candidate for office, a ballot measure committee, or other person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Driver's license and social security numbers, or your signature as shown on your voter registration card, cannot be released for these purposes. If you have any questions about the use of voter information or wish to report suspected misuse of such information, please call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Voting Rights Restored for Persons with a Prior Felony Conviction

You can register and vote if you are:

- A U.S. citizen and a resident of California
- 18 years old or older on Election Day
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court
- Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony

If you meet these requirements, you can vote even if you:

- Have a misdemeanor conviction (a misdemeanor will never prevent you from voting)
- Are on parole supervision or probation
- Are on post-release community supervision (PRCS)

For more information, please visit votingrightsrestored.sos.ca.gov.

Register or re-register to vote today!

If you were registered to vote and convicted of a felony, your previous registration may have been canceled.

Register or re-register to vote today online at registertovote.ca.gov. You can also request a paper voter registration card by calling the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

Democracy Needs You! Serve as a Poll Worker

Help your community members exercise their right to vote by signing up to be a poll worker. As a poll worker, you can make sure voters can easily and safely cast their vote. Gain hands-on experience and take part in the single most important right in our democracy—Voting! Complete your form today at pollworker.sos.ca.gov.

For more information about being a poll worker, contact your county elections office or call the California Secretary of State at (800) 345-VOTE (8683), or visit vote.ca.gov.

Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

California is committed to ensuring every voter is able to cast their ballot privately and independently.

For more detailed information about what assistance your county offers to voters with disabilities, please check out your county Voter Information Guide or contact your county elections official. County contact information is available at sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices.

Voting at a Polling Place or Vote Center

If you need help marking your ballot, you may choose up to two people to help you. This person cannot be:

- Your employer or anyone who works for your employer
- Your labor union leader or anyone who works for your labor union

Curbside voting allows you to park as close as possible to the voting area. Elections officials will bring you a roster to sign, a ballot, and any other voting materials you may need, whether you are actually at a curb or in a car.

All polling places and vote centers are required to be accessible to voters with disabilities and will have accessible voting machines.

Voting at Home

Remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM) systems provide an accessible option for voters with disabilities to receive their ballots at home and mark them independently and privately before sending them back to elections officials. Contact your county elections official for more information.

Audio and Large Print Voter Information Guides

This guide is available in audio and large print versions as well as in English, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese at no cost.

To order:



Visit vote.ca.gov

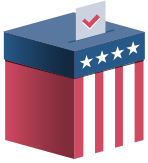


Call the Secretary of State's toll-free voter hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683)



Download an audio MP3 version at voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/audio

DATES TO REMEMBER!



Don't Delay, Vote Today!

Early vote-by-mail ballot voting period is from February 5 through March 5, 2024.

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 5, 2024, Election Day!

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February 5

County elections officials will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots on or before this date.

February 5–March 5

Voting period to return vote-by-mail ballot.

February 6

Vote-by-mail secure drop boxes open.

February 20

Last day to register to vote. Same day voter registration is available at your county elections office or voting location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.

February 24

First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties for early in-person voting.

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Last day to vote in-person or return a vote-by-mail ballot by 8:00 p.m.

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than March 5.

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CALIFORNIA
SECRETARY
OF STATE



MARCH 5, 2024

PRIMARY ELECTION

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5

County elections officials will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots on or before this date.

February 5– March 5

Voting period to return vote-by-mail ballot.

February 6

Vote-by-mail secure drop boxes open.

February 20

Last day to register to vote. Same day voter registration is available at your county elections office or voting location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.

February 24

First day vote centers open in Voter's Choice Act counties for early in-person voting.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Last day to vote in-person or return a vote-by-mail ballot by 8:00 p.m. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than March 5.

For additional copies of the Voter Information Guide in any of the following languages, please call:

English: (800) 345-VOTE (8683)

Español/Spanish: (800) 232-VOTA (8682)

中文/Chinese: (800) 339-2857

हिन्दी/Hindi: (888) 345-2692

★ 日本語/Japanese: (800) 339-2865

ខ្មែរ/Khmer: (888) 345-4917

한국어/Korean: (866) 575-1558

Tagalog: (800) 339-2957

ภาษาไทย/Thai: (855) 345-3933

Việt ngữ/Vietnamese: (800) 339-8163

TTY/TDD: 711

Mobile-Friendly
SCAN
ME



Are you registered to vote? Check here: voterstatus.sos.ca.gov



In an effort to reduce election costs, the State Legislature has authorized the State and counties to mail only one guide to each voting household. You may request additional copies by contacting your county elections official or by calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

