

**Background Information – Motion (recommended by WRAC HOC)
for Board Approval of Letter to LA County Board of Supervisors (BOS)
Requesting Information re Delayed Implementation of SB 43**

Proposed Motion:

Board approval of letter to be sent directly to BOS requesting information regarding delay in implementing SB 43 in Los Angeles (see text of proposed letter attached to WRAC board meeting agenda, 1/22/24)

Background/Justification:

On December 19, 2023, the BOS passed a motion introduced by BOS Chair/Supervisor Lindsey Horvath to delay implementation of SB 43 for two years, until January 1, 2026.

SB 43, recently passed in the state legislature, modernizes conservatorship laws in California by expanding the criteria for making “gravely disabled” determinations under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (applied in connection with “5150” holds/short-term involuntary psychiatric treatment).

The stated reason for the delay is that more time is needed to develop measures or protocols to apply the new “gravely disabled” standard. No specifics have been publicly provided as to the reasons why more time is necessary, what measures / protocols need to be developed, or why a delay of two years is required for this purpose. Supervisor Hahn (the sole No vote on the motion) has expressed concern about the urgent need for treatment of persons with severe mental illness and/or addiction, who in her words “won’t survive two more years.” WRAC Member Councils have long experience with homelessness in their communities and are well-aware that these challenges are faced by unhoused individuals throughout the Westside.

The WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) believes it is important to obtain a more specific explanation from BOS as to (1) why the delay is needed and (2) what plans BOS has or will have in place during the interim to save lives of unhoused persons who are suffering from severe mental illness or substance abuse disorder.

The WRAC board has approved previous similar requests made directly to the City and LAHSA for information on homelessness matters, without the need for further approval or adoption by Member Councils, as these types of requests are not regarded as expressing a “position” on issues (see <https://westsidecouncils.com/other-communications/> -- Requests for Information). The WRAC HOC therefore requests that the WRAC board approve sending the proposed letter to request this information directly from BOS.

Articles re BOS vote to delay SB 43 implementation:

<https://laist.com/news/health/la-county-delays-roll-out-of-new-law-that-expands-criteria-for-involuntary-treatment>

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/regional/supervisor-horvath-spearheads-move-to-delay-gravely-disabled-criteria-rollout/article_aa95635a-9f6d-11ee-82ea-7bdd005d3f3b.html

Statements on votes to delay SB 43 implementation (Barger/yes; Hahn/no):

<https://lapost.us/?p=61798>

<https://hahn.lacounty.gov/supervisor-hahn-votes-against-two-year-delay-of-conservatorship-modernization-law/>

Gov. Newsom statement on SB 43:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/10/10/modernizing-conservatorship-law-sb43/>

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For consideration by the WRAC board on January 22, 2024