



® May 2, 2019

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The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1568 (McCarty): Housing law: prohibition on applying for state grants
As amended on April 11, 2019 – OPPOSE
To be heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is regrettably opposed to Assembly Bill 1568 by Assembly Member McCarty, which would preclude local agencies from applying for state grants if they are found to be in violation of specified housing laws. The bill includes narrow exceptions for grant programs funded by certain vehicle fees and fuel tax revenues and grants that may facilitate compliance with housing law.

In addition to their municipal government functions, counties implement a broad array of countywide and state programs in health and human services, mental health, agriculture and natural resources, non-transportation infrastructure, and public safety. AB 1568 does not include a clear definition of what constitutes a state grant for the purposes of the bill, and accordingly puts at risk a significant amount of funding available to county governments and necessary to implement vital services, many of which serve the most vulnerable residents of our state.

CSAC expects that a very small number of counties, if any, will ever be found to be in violation of the state housing laws specified in subdivision j of Government Code Section 65585. Nevertheless, the breadth of state funding passed through to counties as grant funding makes the bill's prohibition too great of a risk. Moreover, while it will continue to be unlikely that any county will be found to be in violation of the specified laws, current legislation proposes to add to subdivision j at least one additional law that involves greater local discretion and for which the risk of accidental violation is significantly higher.

For these reasons, CSAC is regrettably opposed to AB 1568. If you need additional information about our position, please contact me at 916.650.8180 or clee@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chitzy'.

Christopher Lee
Legislative Representative

Cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarty, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Development Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Development Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus