

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1069

Introduced by Assembly Member Bains

February 20, 2025

An act to add Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 9860) to Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to aging.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1069, as introduced, Bains. Older adults: emergency shelters.

Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes various programs that serve older individuals. The act requires the California Department of Aging to designate various private nonprofit or public agencies as area agencies on aging to work within a planning and service area and provide a broad array of social and nutritional services.

The act also establishes Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) programs to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs, with assistance to older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing LTSS programs at the local level. Under the act, area agencies on aging and independent living centers are the core local partners in developing ADRC programs.

Existing law sets forth various provisions relating to emergency shelters, including, among others, certain provisions within the Natural Disaster Emergency Shelter Program, the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, and the California Emergency Services Act.

This bill would, as part of disaster planning and response, require that an area agency on aging or an ADRC program have access to an emergency shelter, as defined, established for evacuation purposes

during an active event, in order to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities receive continuous services and necessary support. To the extent that the bill would create new duties for local officials with regard to administrative operations for emergency shelters, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 9860) is
2 added to Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 15. DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE
5

6 9860. For purposes of this chapter, “emergency shelter” means
7 a facility established to provide temporary refuge and essential
8 services to individuals displaced by emergencies or disasters.

9 9861. As part of disaster planning and response, an area agency
10 on aging (AAA) or an Aging and Disability Resource Connection
11 (ADRC) program shall have access to an emergency shelter
12 established for evacuation purposes during an active event, in order
13 to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities receive
14 continuous services and necessary support.

15 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
16 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
17 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
18 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
19 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

O