



STATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
10:00am – 12:00pm
City Hall, Room 288

OVERVIEW

This meeting will be held in person at the location listed above. Members of the public may attend the meeting to observe and provide public comment at the physical meeting location listed above. Members of the public may view the meeting by reviewing the details below, with the video link, phone number, and other related information provided:

- **Meeting ID:** 2663 787 5230
- **Meeting Password:** mnGebn8WK74
- **Join by Phone at:** +1-415-655-0001 (Please dial “#” after entering the Meeting ID to view the meeting)
- **Link:**
<https://sfpublic.webex.com/sfpublic/j.php?MTID=mbd7d736ef7dc8149d3eadb2456c7f031>
- **Public Comment:** Please review instructions on page 6.

MEMBERS

Mayor’s Office (Chair) -- Eileen Mariano
Supervisor Connie Chan’s Office -- Frances Hsieh
Board President Rafael Mandelman’s Office -- Designee
Assessor’s Office -- Holly Lung
City Attorney’s Office -- Rebekah Krell
Controller’s Office -- Hannah Kohanzadeh
Treasurer’s Office -- Eric Manke

AGENDA

- I. ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (Action Item).** Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 29, 2025.
- III. STATE LOBBYIST OVERVIEW AND UPDATE (Discussion Item).** The City’s state lobbyist will present to the Committee an update on State legislative matters.

- IV. PROPOSED LEGISLATION (Discussion and Action).** Discussion and possible action item: the Committee will review and discuss state legislation affecting the City and County of San Francisco. Items are listed by Department, then by bill number.

New Business

Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector

Presenter: Eric Manke

AB 418 (Wilson): Property taxation: tax-defaulted property.

Recommended Position: Support

California's county tax collectors, with the approval of their Boards of Supervisors, must offer for sale properties that have been tax-defaulted for a total of nine years. This measure impacts a Chapter 8 sale, which is a negotiated sale price with public agencies for public use or non-profit organizations to build affordable housing.

This measure establishes a process that California's county tax collectors will follow when utilizing the Chapter 8 tax sale process, to ensure that the property is sold in a way that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps still preserve the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize options to manage those properties for which appraisals are not financially logical.

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Presenter: Hailey Gil

AB 315 (Bonta): Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver.

Recommended Position: Support

AB 315, among other provisions, would expand the availability of the Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) waiver to enroll all eligible individuals currently on the waiting list. HSH and community partners leverage HCBA waivers to provide in-home care to residents of permanent supportive housing (PSH) with intensive medical needs.

Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs

Presenter: Jorge Rivas

AB 91 (Harabedian): State and local agencies: demographic data.

Recommended Position: Support

AB 91 proposes that state and local agencies collecting demographic data on Californians' ancestry or ethnic origin should include distinct categories for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities. This means that groups such as Afghans, Iranians, Egyptians, and Moroccans would be recognized separately in

demographic reports starting January 1, 2026. The bill aims to ensure that MENA communities are accurately represented in government data while maintaining privacy protections.

Support the AB 91 because:

1. **Better Representation:** MENA communities are often categorized as "White" in demographic data, leading to underrepresentation and lack of visibility in policymaking and resource allocation.
2. **Improved Access to Services:** More precise data helps ensure that MENA individuals receive fair access to healthcare, education, economic programs, and other essential services.
3. **Data-Driven Equity:** By disaggregating data, policymakers and researchers can better identify disparities and address the unique needs of MENA populations.
4. **Inclusion & Recognition:** Acknowledging MENA communities in official records strengthens identity and ensures being counted in decision-making processes.

Human Services Agency (The Department of Disability and Aging Services)

Presenter: Susie Smith

SB 23 (Valladares and Ochoa Bogh): Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners.

Recommended Position: Support

SB 23 would provide a \$175,298 property tax exemption for the assessed value of the principal residence of 100% disabled veterans and their eligible spouses. This exemption would be available for property tax lien dates occurring between January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2035.

Human Services Agency (The Department of Disability and Aging Services)

Presenter: Susie Smith

AB 53 (Ramos and Pacheco): Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.

Recommended Position: Support

AB 53 will provide a 100% state personal tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants beginning in tax year 2027. The goal of the legislation is to prevent the departure of retiring service members to other states where their retirement income might go farther, as California is the only state that taxes this income. When retiring service members leave, the State loses the talent and skills these individuals bring, along with the other sources of revenue they might contribute to this economy. If passed, the first year AB53 provides a full personal tax exclusion is 2027.

Human Services Agency (The Department of Disability and Aging Services)

Presenter: Susie Smith

SB 56 (Seyarto): Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

Recommended Position: Support

SB-56 removes a disabled Veteran's disability pay from the personal income calculation when determining their qualification for the Low Income Exclusion of the Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption.

Department of Public Health

Presenters: Max Gara and Sneha Patil

AB 602 (Haney): Health care coverage: antiretroviral drugs.

Recommended Position: Sponsor

To improve to access to Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), key HIV medications, this bill will require health plans to provide coverage, without any cost-sharing or utilization review requirements, for antiretroviral drugs such as PrEP and PEP, either approved by the FDA or recommended by the CDC for the prevention of AIDS/HIV, including new long acting formularies.

- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.** Members of the public may address the Committee on items of interest that are within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction and that do not appear on the agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Disability Access

Room 201 of City Hall is located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place and is wheelchair accessible. The closest accessible BART Station is Civic Center, three blocks from City Hall. Accessible Muni lines serving this location are: #47 Van Ness, and the #71 Haight/Noriega and the F Line to Market and Van Ness, as well as Muni Metro stations at Van Ness and Civic Center. For more information about Muni accessible services, call 923-6142. There is accessible parking at the Civic Center Plaza garage.

The State Legislation Committee does not permit remote public comment by members of the public its meetings, except as legally required to enable people with disabilities to participate in such meetings. If you require remote access as a means of reasonable accommodation under ADA, please contact the State Legislation Committee to request remote access, including a description of the functional limitation(s) that precludes your ability to attend in person. Requests made at least two business days in advance of the meeting will help to ensure availability. For further assistance, please contact Joshua Cardenas, Mayor's Office, at: joshua.cardenas@sfgov.org.

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance

The government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the Donna Hall at Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102, by phone at 415-554-7724, by fax at 415-554-7854, or email the Sunshine Ordinance Taskforce Administrator at sof@sfgov.org. Citizens may obtain a free copy of the Sunshine Ordinance by contacting the Task Force, or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at www.sfgov.org/sunshine.htm.

Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code Sec. 2.100 –2.160) to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone 415-581-2300, fax 415-581-2317, Internet website: www.sfgov.org/ethics.

Cell Phones and Pagers

The ringing and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order

the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

Public Comment

Public Comment will be taken in-person on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

- To view the meeting via computer systems:
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Information Regarding Providing Public Comment

Each individual may comment 1 time per agenda item.

Each individual may speak for up to 2 minutes; after which time the line is automatically silenced.

Documents that may have been provided to members of the State Legislation Committee in connection with the items on the agenda include proposed state legislation, consultant reports, correspondence and reports from City departments, and public correspondence. These may be inspected by contacting Eileen Mariano, Manager, State and Federal Affairs, Mayor's Office at: eileen.f.mariano@sfgov.org.

Health Considerations

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.



STATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
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- **Meeting ID:** 2664 126 0275
- **Meeting Password:** WEfVDsqj673
- **Join by Phone at:** +1-415-655-0001 (Please dial “#” after entering the Meeting ID to view the meeting)
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<https://sfpublic.webex.com/sfpublic/j.php?MTID=md59e96f5d42a009da93a823edd703df3>
- **Public Comment:** Please review instructions on page 4.

MEMBERS

Mayor's Office (Chair) -- Eileen Mariano
Supervisor Designee
Supervisor Designee
Assessor's Office -- Holly Lung
City Attorney's Office -- Rebekah Krell
Controller's Office -- Hannah Kohanzadeh
Treasurer's Office -- Eric Manke

AGENDA

Meeting commenced at 10:05 am.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Mariano, Board President Mandelman's Designee, Frances Hsieh, Rebekah Krell, Hannah Kohanzadeh, and Eric Manke.

- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (Action Item).** Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 23, 2024.

Motion to Approve: Frances Hsieh
Seconded by: Hannah Kohanzadeh
Approved: 6-0

- III. STATE LOBBYIST OVERVIEW AND UPDATE (Discussion Item).** The City's state lobbyist will present to the Committee an update on State legislative matters.

- IV. PROPOSED LEGISLATION (Discussion and Action).** Discussion and possible action item: the Committee will review and discuss state legislation affecting the City and County of San Francisco. Items are listed by Department, then by bill number.

New Business

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Presenter: Kathryn Angotti

SB 71 (Wiener): California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transit projects..
Recommended Position: Support

SB 922 expanded statutory exemptions in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for "climate-friendly transportation features," such as specified transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects and extended these exemptions from 2023 to 2030. This would namely be exempting such eligible projects from the CEQA requirement of completing an environmental impact report (EIR) and/or mitigated negative declaration.

Building off that, this bill, SB 71, would remove the sunset on the original legislation so specified projects receive CEQA exemptions indefinitely, include transit route readjustments or modifications to the list of exempt projects, and also allow CEQA exempt projects whose costs surpass the cost ceiling following the project engineer's cost estimate to be able to remain eligible for the exemption.

This bill additionally includes ferries among the original list of facilities that have transportation-related projects eligible to receive these CEQA exemptions.

Motion to Approve: Hannah Kohanzadeh
Seconded by: Board President Mandelman's Designee
Approved: 5-0
Abstain: 1

- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.** Members of the public may address the Committee on items of interest that are within the Committee's subject matter

jurisdiction and that do not appear on the agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 10:38 am.

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Date Submitted	2/12/25
Submitting Department	Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector
Contact Name	Eric Manke
Contact Email and Phone Number	Eric.manke@sfgov.org , 415-350-0700
SLC Meeting Presenter	Eric Manke
Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO X N/A

AB-418

Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Assembly District #11, D-Suisun City **Property taxation: tax-defaulted property**

Recommended Position

☐ SPONSOR ☒ SUPPORT ☐ SUPPORT if amended ☐ OPPOSE ☐ OTHER & Describe

Summary

California's county tax collectors, with the approval of their Boards of Supervisors, must offer for sale properties that have been tax-defaulted for a total of nine years. This measure impacts a Chapter 8 sale, which is a negotiated sale price with public agencies for public use or non-profit organizations to build affordable housing.

This measure establishes a process that California's county tax collectors will follow when utilizing the Chapter 8 tax sale process, to ensure that the property is sold in a way that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps still preserve the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize options to manage those properties for which appraisals are not financially logical.

Background/Analysis

On May 25, 2023, the United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Tyler v Hennepin County, Minnesota, et al.* that Geraldine Tyler's Constitutional rights were violated when Hennepin County auctioned her property to satisfy the delinquent property tax debt worth \$15,000. The property sold for \$40,000 and the County kept the remaining \$25,000 in excess proceeds. The Court found that the taking of the value of Ms. Tyler's equity violated the Takings Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment.

California law requires that tax collectors offer a property at tax auction if it has been delinquent for nine years. If a property is sold at a tax auction, proceeds from the auction that remain after all taxes are paid are then made available to parties of interest (i.e. the owner) to that property, and those parties have one year to file a claim for those proceeds. In no event under current law can a

California County deprive a property owner of their excess proceeds without first providing one year to file that claim.

California's county tax collectors, with the approval of their Boards of Supervisors, can sell tax-defaulted properties in three ways:

1. Chapter 7 sale – a competitive auction, where it is possible for the property to be sold for more than the amount of defaulted taxes owed; remaining funds are called excess proceeds, and the property owner is entitled to those proceeds and has access to them under California law by filing a claim within one year of the auction closing.
2. Chapter 8 sale – a negotiated sale price with a qualified bidder. Qualified bidders include public agencies and non-profit organizations who build affordable housing.
3. Sealed bid sales – where property that is considered unusable on its own (e.g., sliver or landlocked) is offered only to the owners of neighboring parcels who can bid on the property.

Challenge

The Chapter 8 sales process that counties use has created concern for potential violation of the decision in *Tyler v. Hennepin* if the property is sold for less than the tax sale value. Chapter 8 sales are a negotiated sales price (generally for the taxes owed), which could potentially lead to a loss of equity for the owner if the tax sale value is higher than the taxes owed.

Oftentimes, the defaulted tax amount on the property is far more than the value of the property, which would make it difficult for the county to sell the property at auction. Tax collectors sometimes use Chapter 8 to sell properties or transfer them for less than the total taxes owed. Doing so has raised concerns that a county could deprive the property owner of any excess proceeds that could be derived at a competitive auction.

In light of *Tyler V Hennepin*, and the myriad public record act requests that county tax collectors are fielding to provide information on their use of Chapter 8 sales, some additional procedures that provide the public and the property owner a transparent process by which the tax collector sets the sales price that is then approved by both the Board of Supervisors and the State Controller, are called for to address any concerns regarding California county tax collection procedures being consistent with *Tyler v. Hennepin County*.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

This measure establishes a process that California's county tax collectors will follow when utilizing the Chapter 8 sale process to ensure that the property is sold in a way that is transparent and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. These additional steps still preserve the tax collector's informed discretion to utilize options to manage those properties.

While the *Tyler V Hennepin* case involved a tax sale in a different state, there is now nationwide interest in ensuring individual state statutes reflect the action of the Supreme Court when it comes to how states manage the sales of tax-defaulted property and establish value for the purpose of selling the property. AB 418 would amend California's statute to develop a process that reflects the Supreme Court's decision.

Departments Impacted & Why

Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector

Fiscal Impact

None

Support / Opposition

Support:

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (CACTTC)

Opposition:

None.



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Date Submitted	February 13, 2025
Submitting Department	Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Contact Name	Hailey Gil
Contact Email and Phone Number	Hailey.gil@sfgov.org ; 415-926-9264
SLC Meeting Presenter	Hailey Gil
Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

AB 315

Assembly Member Bonta, Assembly District 18, (D)

Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver

Recommended Position

☐ SPONSOR ☒ SUPPORT ☐ SUPPORT if amended ☐ OPPOSE ☐ OTHER & Describe

Summary

AB 315, among other provisions, would expand the availability of the Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) waiver to enroll all eligible individuals currently on the waiting list. HSH and community partners leverage HCBA waivers to provide in-home care to residents of permanent supportive housing (PSH) with intensive medical needs.

Background/Analysis

There are few avenues for PSH programs to provide around-the-clock services for residents with significant medical and behavioral health care needs. One successful model has been to leverage Medi-Cal waiver programs such as the HCBA waiver to provide skilled nursing care, primary and specialty care navigation, assistance with medication management, medical case management, assisted daily living (personal care and hygiene), chronic wound care, and hospice/end-of-life care.

Non-profit healthcare organization, Cardea Health, first successfully implemented this model in Oakland, then in 2024 replicated it in San Francisco at Kelly Cullen Community (KCC), a PSH site operated by Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation. Cardea Health has demonstrated this model improves quality of life for PSH residents with acute and chronic health needs while also creating an overall reduction to healthcare spending.

Specifically, based on its pilot program in Oakland, Cardea Health estimated that using the HCBA waiver in PSH reduces health care spending per resident by an average of \$175,000 annually by significantly reducing emergency room, inpatient, and skilled nursing facility admissions.

Challenge

The HCBA waiver is an invaluable resource, but its enrollment is capped. Every five years, the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) applies to a federal agency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), for an allotment of HCBA waivers to use throughout the State. The number allotted to California for the years 2023 to 2027 is insufficient to meet the demonstrated need. As of November 2024, there were 5,452 eligible applicants on the waiting list. Due to the acuity of their conditions, rationing HCBA waivers in this way will force many into homelessness or institutionalization due to lack of available care. In order for the City and County of San Francisco to scale the use of HCBA waivers to serve PSH residents with intensive medical need, the State of California would need to expand its HCBA waiver availability statewide.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

Greater access to HCBA waivers will enhance lives, honor patients' choice to remain in their community, promote health equity, and realize significant cost savings. AB 315 would require DHCS to "seek all necessary amendments to the HCBA waiver to accommodate [all eligible individuals who apply for it]." This would include those already on the waiting list.

The bill would also require DHCS to complete a rate study to assess effectiveness of the methods used to pay for services under the HCBA Waiver, and whether the current method of ratesetting for a service provides an adequate supply of providers.

Departments Impacted & Why

- The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)
- The Department of Public Health (DPH)
- San Francisco Human Services Agency
- San Francisco Health Plan

Fiscal Impact

Where this program reduces emergency room, inpatient, and skilled nursing facility admissions, the policy could be cost-neutral, if not create statewide savings in the long-term.

Support / Opposition

Formal support and opposition have not yet been registered; however, the following organizations have been active in advocating for this bill concept:

- Cardea Health
- Disability Rights California
- East Bay Innovations
- Homebridge
- Coalition for Supportive Housing
- Little Lobbyists
- Choice in Aging
- Justice in Aging
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- Senior Services Coalition
- Family Voices of California
- Leading Age California

- California Children's Trust
- California Community Living Network
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund



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Date Submitted	2/13/2025
Submitting Department	Immigrant Rights Commission – OCEIA
Contact Name	Jorge Rivas
Contact Email and Phone Number	Jorge.rivas@sfgov.org 415-509-0253
SLC Meeting Presenter	Jorge Rivas
Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

AB-91

Assemblymember John Harabedian, Assembly District #41, D-Pasadena **State and local agencies: demographic data.**

Recommended Position

☐ SPONSOR ☒ SUPPORT ☐ SUPPORT if amended ☐ OPPOSE ☐ OTHER & Describe

Summary

AB 91 proposes that state and local agencies collecting demographic data on Californians' ancestry or ethnic origin should include distinct categories for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities. This means that groups such as Afghans, Iranians, Egyptians, and Moroccans would be recognized separately in demographic reports starting January 1, 2026. The bill aims to ensure that MENA communities are accurately represented in government data while maintaining privacy protections.

Support the AB 91 because:

- 1) *Better Representation: MENA communities are often categorized as "White" in demographic data, leading to underrepresentation and lack of visibility in policymaking and resource allocation.*
- 2) *Improved Access to Services: More precise data helps ensure that MENA individuals receive fair access to healthcare, education, economic programs, and other essential services.*
- 3) *Data-Driven Equity: By disaggregating data, policymakers and researchers can better identify disparities and address the unique needs of MENA populations.*
- 4) *Inclusion & Recognition: Acknowledging MENA communities in official records strengthens identity and ensures being counted in decision-making processes.*

Background/Analysis

[Provide history of the issue in question and/or a description of the law as it currently stands.]

Background on MENA Classification in U.S. Data

For decades, individuals of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) descent have been classified as "White" in federal and state demographic data. This classification is based on a 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision (United States v. Cartozian) that ruled Middle Eastern immigrants could be considered "White" under naturalization laws. However, this categorization has long been criticized as inaccurate and exclusionary because MENA communities face distinct social, economic, and health disparities that are obscured by their classification under the broader "White" category.

Current Law in California

While some California agencies collect limited MENA data, there is no consistent, standardized method to track and recognize these communities across state and local government databases.

- 1) Existing Demographic Data Collection Laws: California state agencies already collect race and ethnicity data under the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act and other civil rights laws, but the MENA category is not required.*
- 2) Impact on Services: Because MENA individuals are grouped under "White," they are often excluded from policies, funding, and programs designed to assist racial and ethnic minorities, even if they face similar disparities.*
- 3) Public Health & Economic Equity: The lack of MENA-specific data makes it harder to measure disparities in healthcare, education, and economic status, leaving many needs unaddressed.*

As of January 29, 2025, California Assembly Bill 91 (AB 91) has been introduced and is awaiting assignment to a committee for further consideration. The bill has not yet been assigned to a specific committee. The legislative process involves several stages, including committee reviews, potential amendments, and votes in both the Assembly and the Senate before it can become law.

Challenge

[Describe the challenge or problem that this bill is trying to solve for and the impacts to San Francisco.]

The key issue AB 91 seeks to resolve is the lack of accurate demographic data for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities in California, including San Francisco. Currently, MENA individuals are classified as "White" in state and federal demographic reporting. This misclassification leads to invisibility in policymaking, funding allocation, and access to essential services.

Specific Problems:

- 1) Underrepresentation in Government Data: MENA communities are not distinctly counted, making it difficult to measure disparities in healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.*
- 2) Barriers to Social Services: Without proper recognition, MENA individuals may not qualify for targeted support programs meant to assist racial and ethnic minority communities.*
- 3) Public Health Inequities: Research shows that MENA populations experience higher rates of certain diseases, mental health challenges, and economic struggles, but their needs are often overlooked due to a lack of data.*
- 4) Missed Economic & Workforce Development Opportunities: Business and workforce programs aimed at diverse communities do not have MENA-specific outreach, limiting resources for entrepreneurship and job training.*

Impacts to San Francisco

San Francisco is home to a significant and diverse MENA community, including Arab, Persian, Afghan, and North African populations. Without proper data collection, city agencies struggle to address the unique challenges faced by these groups.

- 1) Improved Access to Services: City programs related to healthcare, language access, housing, and education can better serve MENA communities.*
- 2) Equitable Resource Allocation: More accurate data ensures that funding for social programs and economic initiatives is fairly distributed.*
- 3) Better Public Health Strategies: The San Francisco Department of Public Health can develop targeted outreach and healthcare programs that reflect the actual needs of MENA populations.*
- 4) Stronger Civic Engagement: Recognizing MENA identities in demographic reports can help increase representation in local government, advocacy, and community development efforts.*

The Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) community in California numbers approximately 740,219 individuals, accounting for about 3.4% of the state's "White" population.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

[Describe the solution the bill is proposing, and/or the new policy it creates to help San Francisco.]

AB 91 creates a new policy requiring California state and local agencies to collect and report demographic data specifically for Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities. This change ensures that individuals from MENA backgrounds are no longer categorized as "White" but are instead recognized as a distinct ethnic group in official records.

The bill mandates that, starting January 1, 2026, state agencies collecting demographic data must include separate MENA categories for groups such as Afghans, Iranians, Egyptians, Moroccans, Lebanese, Syrians, and others. Reports using this data must be publicly available by January 1, 2027, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Key Benefits for San Francisco:

- 1) Better Public Health Services: The San Francisco Department of Public Health will have more accurate data on MENA communities, enabling targeted healthcare access, mental health support, and preventive care programs. This can help address health disparities, such as higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and mental health challenges in certain MENA populations.*
- 2) Stronger Educational Support for MENA Students: San Francisco public schools will be able to track and address challenges faced by MENA students, such as language barriers and academic disparities.*
It will allow for culturally responsive curriculum development and ensure that bilingual education programs are available where needed.
- 3) Economic Inclusion and Workforce Development: Small business grants and workforce programs can now specifically target MENA-owned businesses and workers, ensuring they*

have access to the same economic opportunities as other ethnic groups. The city can better track employment disparities and develop workforce training programs for MENA communities.

- 4) *More Equitable Distribution of City & State Resources:* Social services, housing assistance, and community grants will be more fairly allocated based on actual demographic representation. Nonprofits and community organizations serving MENA populations can use this data to apply for state and federal funding to expand their services.
- 5) *Increased Political Representation & Civic Engagement:* MENA individuals in San Francisco will gain greater visibility in government decision-making. More accurate census and voter data will help ensure that MENA communities are fairly represented in civic engagement efforts.

Departments Impacted & Why

[List any departments that may be impacted by the legislation and explain the impact. We recommend consulting with affected departments for their perspective before submitting this proposal form.]

- 1) *San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH):* SFPDH will need to update demographic intake forms at public hospitals, clinics, and mental health services to include MENA-specific categories. Improved data collection will help track health disparities in MENA populations, leading to better healthcare access, targeted outreach, and culturally responsive services.
- 2) *San Francisco Human Services Agency (HAS):* Programs such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, and food assistance (CalFresh) will now be able to track participation and disparities among MENA residents. This ensures that social service programs are fairly reaching all communities in need.
- 3) *San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA):* OCEIA will be able to use this data to improve language access programs, citizenship support, and immigrant services for MENA communities. This helps increase civic participation and engagement for underrepresented immigrant populations.
- 4) *San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD):* SFUSD will need to update enrollment and student demographic tracking to include MENA as a distinct racial/ethnic category. This allows the district to analyze educational disparities, provide targeted bilingual education services, and address academic challenges unique to MENA students.
- 5) *San Francisco Economic & Workforce Development Department (OEWD):* Business development programs, job training, and small business grants will now be able to assess MENA participation and ensure economic equity for MENA entrepreneurs and job seekers. Workforce programs can develop targeted job placement and career development for MENA communities.
- 6) *San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) & Criminal Justice System:* AB 91 will require updated data collection on crime, policing, and legal services to ensure that MENA individuals are properly represented in criminal justice statistics. This can help identify disparities in policing, legal defense access, and incarceration rates for MENA communities.

Fiscal Impact

[If any, describe the fiscal impact of the legislation, especially as it relates to San Francisco and your department in particular. Please include any analysis completed that summarizes fiscal impact to the State.]

While San Francisco departments will face initial implementation costs for system upgrades, staff training, and reporting, the long-term benefits include increased funding, more equitable resource distribution, and stronger economic development. The investment in better data collection will allow the city to serve its diverse population more effectively, ultimately reducing disparities and improving public services.

Support / Opposition

[List the entities, elected officials, organizations that either support and/or oppose this bill. This information can be found at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> and going to “Bill Information” / searching the bill / “Bill Analysis.” The list of supporters and/ opposition is typically included on the analysis listed.

Based online search it looks like the California MENA Civil Rights Coalition has endorsed the bill, the Arab American Civic Council has voiced strong support, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA) has joined the coalition in backing the legislation.



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Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

SB-23

Senators Suzette Martinez Valladares—Senate District #13, (R-Lancaster)—and Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh—Senate District #19, (R-Yucaipa)—

Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners

Recommended Position

- ☐ **SPONSOR** ☒ **SUPPORT**
☐ **SUPPORT if amended** ☐ **OPPOSE**
☐ **OTHER & Describe**

Summary

SB 23 would provide a \$175,298 property tax exemption for the assessed value of the principal residence of 100% disabled veterans and their eligible spouses. This exemption would be available for property tax lien dates occurring between January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2035.

Background/Analysis

The California Constitution and existing property tax law provide various exemptions for disabled veterans. However, these exemptions have not kept pace with California's housing costs. Veterans who are blind in both eyes, have lost the use of two or more limbs, or are rated 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs face

particular challenges in maintaining homeownership.

Challenge

Current property tax relief for disabled veterans is insufficient, given California's high cost of living and housing expenses. This contributes to housing instability and potential homelessness among severely disabled veterans who struggle to maintain homeownership while managing service-connected disabilities and fixed incomes.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

SB 23 will provide comprehensive property tax relief through the following provisions:

- Grants a \$175,298 tax exemption for the assessed value of the principal residences of qualifying 100% disabled veterans
 - Extends the exemption to properties owned by the veteran's spouse or jointly owned
- Continues benefits for

unmarried surviving spouses of
qualifying veterans

- Maintains exemption if the veteran is confined to a hospital or care facility, provided the residence isn't rented to a third party
 - Includes various forms of ownership, including joint tenancy, community property, and corporate property rights.
-

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Veteran must be rated 100% disabled, blind in both eyes, or have lost the use of two or more limbs due to military service
 - Property must be the principal residence of the veteran or eligible spouse
 - Documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs required to verify disability rating
-

Departments Impacted & Why

n/a

Fiscal Impact

Local property tax revenue reduction from qualified exempt properties. No state reimbursement to local agencies for lost revenue.

Support / Opposition

California Association of County Veteran Service Officers

CA State Commanders Veterans Council



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Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

AB-53

Assemblymembers James C. Ramos—Assembly District #45, D-San Bernardino—and Blanca Pacheco, Assembly District #64, D-Downey **Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act.**

Recommended Position

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT if amended | <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER & Describe | |

Summary

AB 53 will provide a 100% state personal tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants beginning in tax year 2027. The goal of the legislation is to prevent the departure of retiring service members to other states where their retirement income might go farther, as California is the only state that taxes this income. When retiring service members leave, the State loses the talent and skills these individuals bring, along with the other sources of revenue they might contribute to this economy. If passed, the first year AB53 provides a full personal tax exclusion is 2027.

Background/Analysis

The Personal Income Tax Law imposes a tax on individual taxpayers measured by the taxpayer's taxable income for the taxable year, but excludes certain items of income from the computation of tax, including an exclusion for combat-related special compensation.

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2037, would exclude from taxable income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2037, would also exclude from taxable income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of

Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year.

The Governor's proposed 2025 budget has a line item to support a tax exclusion for military retirees and surviving spouses. This is the first time in decades that a tax exclusion for military retirees and surviving spouses was included in a proposed California budget but it does not go far enough. That exemption amount is Up to \$20,000 of military retirement income, with income limits: o Up to \$250,000 for joint filers. o Up to \$125,000 for single filers.

Challenge

Attracting and maintaining a qualified workforce is a top issue for California employers. Approximately 60,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled.

Military retirees, surviving spouses and their families have proven to be trustworthy and valuable members of their community. California must extend benefits to support their transition into the California work force and remain with their families in California.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

Each of the Armed Services has over 100 classified skill sets directly matching positions in California's public infrastructure and private corporations. Uniformed service retirees and survivors are highly skilled in filling these positions. These are the residents that California must strive to keep. Their skill sets enable them to quickly transition to many California private and public industries. Federally funded programs available to provide training to military retirees and survivors include the GI Bill, Skill bridge Program, The Translating Military Skills into Civilian Jobs Act of 2024. Active-duty death survivors, other survivors and children are eligible for many other education benefits and opportunities including the Post 9/11 Marine Gunny Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, the Yellow Ribbon Program, and DEA Chapter 35. These benefits provided include college or

graduate degree programs, career training certificate or diploma courses, apprenticeships, on-the-job training. Licensing and certification tests, national testing, like college and post degree admissions exams, and college prep courses and preparatory courses

Departments Impacted & Why

*Just DAS which includes the County
Veteran's Services Office*

Fiscal Impact

The California Department of Finance estimated cost for AB36, a similar bill in the previous legislature to be between \$150-\$250 Million. While the Governor's proposed \$20k of tax relief is welcomed relief and would finally remove the stigma of CA being the ONLY state to not provide tax relief for retirees and Surviving Spouses, it still does not fully cover the retirement benefit (an E-7 with 20yrs retired in 2024 makes \$34,547 before any federal tax or healthcare deductions).

Many active duty military stationed in California are not residents of California thus do not pay state income tax. Retaining military retirees and survivors, who are educated, trained, eligible for federal funds for transitional work force training, reliable, and joining the California workforce is a low-cost win-win-win for California. These military retirees and surviving spouses may also qualify for federal veterans' benefits including low interest VA home loans, which further bring new monies into the state. Military retirees and surviving spouses have proven to be trustworthy and valuable members of their community, California must extend California benefits to support their transition into the California work force and remain with their families in California.

Support / Opposition

California Association of County Veterans
Service Officers

CA State Commanders Veterans Council



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Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

SB-56

Senator Kelly Seyarto, Senate District #32, R-Murieta

Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

Recommended Position	
<input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT if amended	<input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER & Describe	

Summary

SB-56 removes a disabled Veteran's disability pay from the personal income calculation when determining their qualification for the Low Income Exclusion of the Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption.

Background/Analysis

The Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption is a special benefit given to disabled Veterans who call California home.

There are two levels of this exemption, Basic and Low Income. To qualify for the tax exemption, a Veteran must show proof of their disability status with the VA, attest that the property is their principal place of residence, and submit a DD-214 (record of service) that reflects a discharge other than dishonorable. Once established as qualified for the tax exemption, a Veteran can attest and demonstrate that their household income is below

\$76,235 annually to qualify for the low-income exemption.

Currently, a Veteran rated at 100% disability by the VA with a spouse is given \$48,539 annually. The Social Security Administration reports that the average annual payment to Americans, as of 2025, is currently \$21,456.44 per recipient. As inflation and cost of living increases, VA disability compensation increases. This means that the very requirement to qualify for the tax exemption counts against over half (64%) of a Veteran's ability to qualify for the low income exemption.

Challenge

As an example to demonstrate this issue: One disabled Veteran with a spouse, both receiving social security and receiving no other income from retirement, life insurance, unemployment, gifts, interest, savings, rentals, or investments, would not qualify as they would make more than \$76k a year.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

SB-56 seeks to remove the counterproductive inclusion of disability compensation from the calculation of the Low Income Exclusion of the Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption, as

Veterans must receive that compensation in order to qualify for the tax exemption in the first place. Families surviving on only social security and disability pay should qualify for the low income exclusion.

Departments Impacted & Why

n/a

Fiscal Impact

TBD - Hasn't gone through a fiscal committee yet.

Support / Opposition

California Association of County Veteran's Offices

CA State Commanders Veterans Council



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SLC Meeting Presenter	Max Gara
Reviewed and approved by Department Head?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Reviewed and approved by Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

AB 602

Assemblymember Matt Haney, Assembly District #17, D-San Francisco Health care coverage: antiretroviral drugs.

Recommended Position

☒ **SPONSOR** ☐ SUPPORT ☐ SUPPORT if amended ☐ OPPOSE ☐ OTHER & Describe

Summary

To improve to access to Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), key HIV medications, this bill will require health plans to provide coverage, without any cost-sharing or utilization review requirements, for antiretroviral drugs such as PrEP and PEP, either approved by the FDA or recommended by the CDC for the prevention of AIDS/HIV, including new long acting formularies.

Background/Analysis

San Francisco has long been internationally recognized as a leader in the treatment and care of patients with HIV/AIDS. The City and the Department of Public Health (SFDPH)

have for many years worked to reduce the incidence and transmission of HIV in the City, and have made great strides in supporting the needs of individuals living with HIV. The City's Getting to Zero initiative, of which SFDPH is a member, has a goal of zero new HIV infections, zero HIV deaths, and zero HIV stigma. SFDPH programs also provide a wide array of health prevention, promotion, navigation and treatment services.

Despite continued downward trends in prevalence, HIV prevention and treatment continue to be major priorities of the City. A recent report showed 133 new HIV diagnoses in 2023, representing a decrease from 157 in 2022, and an overall 27% decrease since 2019. However, the reduction in new diagnoses is not as rapid as the 56% decrease seen 2013-2019. Further, significant racial disparities persist, with

substantially higher new infection rates among Latino and Black men than White or Asian/Pacific Islander men.

People experiencing homelessness (PEH) accounted for nearly 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses, and over half (63%) of PEH were virally suppressed in 2022¹

Challenge

A key strategy in preventing new HIV infections has been to increase access to Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). These medications are an essential part of the HIV prevention toolbox and help to prevent the establishment of chronic HIV infection. Under the Affordable Care Act, commercial insurers must cover certain preventive health services, including PrEP medication. Despite the mandate, patients still face prior authorizations, which can cause delays in treatment, or even bills for co-pay. The CDC estimates that only a third of the more than 1 million people who could benefit from PrEP have received a prescription. While state legislation was passed last year to ensure health plans included coverage of PrEP (AB 2258) with no cost sharing requirements, the bill did not specify coverage of new long-acting injection formularies.

Solution/Recommended Proposal

This bill would require a health care service plan issued, amended, or renewed after January 1, 2026 to provide coverage for antiretroviral drugs that are either approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration or recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention for the prevention of AIDS/HIV, including PrEP and PEP and their long acting formularies. Further, plans cannot impose any cost-sharing or utilization review requirements for these medications.

On March 30, 2023, a federal judge in Texas struck down national protections for preventive care benefits under the federal Affordable Care Act. Although the case continues to be heard in court, under this bill, there will be no question that HIV PrEP and all the necessary care for delivering this life-saving medication will remain covered without cost sharing.

Departments Impacted & Why

No other department would be directly impacted.

Fiscal Impact

Based on an analysis of a similar bill from 2024, these state estimates that provisions would result in a change in average premiums of no less than 1% for any market segment, and there to be no measurable change in the number of uninsured persons due to the bill's provisions.

Support / Opposition

Unknown

¹ 2023 San Francisco Public Health HIV Epidemiology Annual Report