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**AB 1733 (Quirk-Silva, Atkins, Maienschein)
Fee Waivers for Homeless**

Summary

This bill establishes a fee waiver for people experiencing homelessness that need to obtain a certified copy of their birth record from the Department of Public Health or a state identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Background

People experiencing homelessness rely on access to government programs and social services in order to obtain housing, employment, nutrition, health services, education, public assistance and other benefits. Nearly every state and federal program providing these services requires an applicant establish eligibility by producing proof of identity and/or proof of residence. The most common documents required are a certified birth record and a valid, government-issued photo identification card.

Problem

Many people experiencing homelessness lack the necessary forms of personal identification needed to establish their eligibility for various public assistance and social programs previously mentioned. The most common forms of identification that people experiencing homelessness need in order to access these programs are birth records and government-issued photo identification. The Department of Public Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles both charge fees to obtain certified copies of vital records and government-issued photo identification, respectively. For many people experiencing homelessness, the fees levied are a cost-prohibitive barrier to the legal documents they need to access programs that could help end their homelessness.

Solution

This bill will allow a person experiencing homelessness to submit an affidavit of homelessness and financial need with an application for vital records or a state-issued photo identification card.

Providing a process by which these fees can be waived will reduce the time that people experiencing homelessness rely on costly emergency services; will expedite and enhance the efficiency of government and non-profit advocates working to connect people experiencing homelessness to existing programs that can meet their needs; will dignify and show support to people working toward ending their homelessness; and create long-term savings to state and county emergency services.

Support

Housing California (Sponsor)
Western Center on Law & Poverty
County of Santa Clara
California Mental Health Planning Council
County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)
California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA)
Swords to Plowshares
California Church IMPACT
First Place for Youth
Kings/Tulare Continuum of Care on Homelessness
Larkin Street Youth Services
Compass Family Services
Loaves to Fishes
Century Housing
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness (SCREH)
Paratransit
Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services (CCHAS)
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. (CCWRO)
Sacramento Housing Alliance
Skid Row Housing Trust
Cottage Housing Inc
River City Food Bank

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