

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 11**

**SUBJECT:     REQUESTING RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT SENATE BILL 43  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

We have seen a sharp increase in homelessness in the State of California over the past 7 years. There is a clear need for additional resources for those who need it most.

Recently, the County of San Diego received a letter from Governor Newsom admonishing the delayed implementation of State Senate Bill 43 (SB 43), which expands the criteria for conservatorship to include those who are gravely disabled due to Substance Use Disorder. Governor Newsom signed this Bill into law in October of 2023, and the Board voted to implement SB 43 on January 1st, 2025. The expanded criteria offer a promising avenue for getting more people into treatment and off the streets.

However, this expansion requires additional resources. It is not enough to simply have more people placed into a conservatorship if we don't have the treatment, programs, and facilities needed.

Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order on July 25th, 2024, urging local jurisdictions to clear homeless encampments. After decades of ineffective state policies-many of which, including the continuation of the failed Housing First policy, increased housing regulations, and the transfer of prison populations to local jails, occurred under his own leadership-the State is now placing the burden of these failures on local governments.

Nonetheless, we share a common goal: getting people off the streets and into the help they need. Achieving this requires more than just policy changes; we need additional resources. With the collaboration of the County of San Diego's department of Behavioral Health Services, today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to Governor Newsom requesting the funding necessary to implement SB 43. SB 43 implementation is only a part of the solution for clearing homeless encampments, as not all individuals living in encampments will qualify for conservatorship. However, we must use every tool at our disposal to address this challenge.

The funding for resources needed includes:

- The region-wide implementation of SD-Relay, a 24/7 behavioral health peer support program for those in emergency rooms who are placed in an involuntary hold or who have suffered a non-fatal overdose. This program alleviates the overcrowding of emergency rooms.
- Funding for secure Behavioral Health residential facilities.
- Funding for withdrawal management beds.
- Funding for involuntary Substance Use Disorder treatment in hospitals.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to the Governor of California, in response to his letter dated July 28, 2024, requesting:
  - a. \$10 million, ongoing annually, for the regionwide implementation of SD-Relay.
  - b. \$12 million, ongoing annually, for secure Behavioral Health residential facilities.
  - c. \$26 million, ongoing annually, for Medically Managed Substance Use Disorder Residential treatment beds.
  - d. \$3 million, ongoing annually, for Chemical Dependency and Recovery Hospital services.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The implementation of Senate Bill 43 and the effort to address homelessness in San Diego County will disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, particularly those suffering from substance use disorders and mental illness. Expanding conservatorship criteria provides an opportunity to help individuals who are otherwise unable to access necessary treatment and support. However, without adequate resources such as treatment programs and housing facilities, marginalized groups may continue to be underserved. It is essential to ensure that equitable access to these resources is prioritized, with special attention to communities disproportionately affected by homelessness and poverty. This action aims to create a more inclusive and supportive system but must be backed by comprehensive services to achieve meaningful outcomes. Equity will be measured by how well services are distributed and accessed across all affected groups.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed initiative aligns with the County's sustainability goals by addressing homelessness through a holistic approach that improves environmental, social, health, and economic outcomes. By expanding conservatorship under SB 43 and implementing programs like SD-Relay, the County will reduce the strain on emergency services and provide equitable care for vulnerable populations. These measures will not only enhance public health and wellbeing but also create a more sustainable and resilient community in the long term.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendation. We anticipate there will be extensive one-time and ongoing costs for the implementation of SB 43, including costs for services and potential facility improvements. Full potential for billing capacity to offset these costs is unknown at this time. There is currently \$15 million in one-time bridge funding available to support implementation through existing General Purpose Revenue under the Maximize ARPA Revenue Strategy. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Vargas

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter

