



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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April 24, 2017

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 237: Employment Grants for Homeless Individuals

On April 13, 2017, Assembly Bill 237, related to grants to municipalities to connect homeless individuals with permanent employment, was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform. The bill is substantially similar to sections 133 and 452 of the 2017-19 biennial budget bill (LFB budget summary: page 51, #2).

SUMMARY OF BILL

The bill creates an annual GPR appropriation under the Department of Administration (DOA) for employment grants to municipalities funded at \$75,000 GPR annually. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to municipalities that administer a homeless individual employment program. Under the bill, DOA may annually award a grant of up to \$75,000 to any municipality. A municipality that receives a grant must contribute at least \$50,000 of its own funds and must use both the grant and the contribution for the purpose of connecting homeless individuals with permanent employment. The bill requires DOA to give preference to a municipality that obtains an agreement from a nonprofit organization to provide additional employment and support services to homeless individuals participating in the grant program. Provisions of the bill would take effect on the day of publication, or on the second day after publication of the 2017 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

Related to the budget provision, the administration indicates funding would be available for a municipality to initiate a pilot program modeled after a City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, program that utilizes a van to conduct outreach to homeless individuals and offer day labor opportunities such as cleaning up municipal parks and public spaces.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill creates an annual GPR appropriation under DOA funded at \$75,000 GPR in 2017-18 and \$75,000 GPR in 2018-19 for homeless individual employment grants to municipalities. The Department of Administration submitted a fiscal note for AB 237. According to DOA, since "the program involves a single grant award, the Department anticipates that the annual administration of the grant program can be accomplished with existing resources. The Department also anticipates that the one-time workload associated with setting up the program (e.g., updating website, developing application materials and evaluation criteria) can also be accomplished with existing resources."

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