



## Senate Bill 1011 Fact Sheet – Compassionately Clearing Homeless Encampments

Principal Coauthor: Senator Blakespear; Coauthors: Senators Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Dodd, Grove, Nguyen, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Wilk, Assemblymembers Alanis, Dahle, Davies, Essayli, Flora, Gallagher, Joe Patterson, Sanchez,

### **SUMMARY**

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SB 1011 prohibits homeless encampments near schools, open spaces, and major transit stops. This bill balances accountability with compassion by implementing a 72-hour warning before an encampment is cleared, and requires enforcement officers to provide information about sleeping alternatives, homeless and mental health services, and/or homeless shelters in the area.

### **BACKGROUND**

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California [leads the nation](#) with the most chronically homeless individuals. Estimates indicate that homelessness in California increased by [6%](#) last year, and nearly 40% over the last six years, to over [181,000](#) people. During those six years, California spent over \$24 billion on homelessness. For example, in San Diego County, the number of homeless shot up by [14%](#) in 2023 alone, to over 10,000 individuals. Similar trends are seen across the state with a [10%](#) increase in the homeless population in LA just last year and a nearly [70%](#) growth in the homeless population in Sacramento from 2019 to 2022.

Californians are becoming increasingly concerned with the state's growing homeless population as they notice the homelessness encampments increase across the state. In fact, [60%](#) of Californian adults say the presence of homeless people has increased over the past year and almost [70%](#) of Californian adults see it as a big problem.

Residents are [concerned](#) about dangerous encampments, crime, and quality of life degrading in their neighborhoods because of the homelessness crisis. Parents are [worried](#) about their family's safety with encampments steps away from schools, playgrounds, and areas where children often congregate.

### **PROBLEM**

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Some local governments have already taken action to address their residents' concerns about increasing homelessness. The City of Los Angeles recently passed a [measure](#) aimed at banning homeless encampments near certain schools, parks, libraries, and daycare centers.

The City of Sacramento passed [measures](#) to ban homeless encampments within 500 feet of schools, childcare centers, colleges, hospitals, and levees.

The City of San Diego passed the "[Unsafe Camping Ordinance](#)" which prohibits camping within 500 feet of schools, open spaces, or transit stops.

These measures have strong support from residents in local jurisdictions. However, these additional tools to compassionately clear encampments are not available to all local jurisdictions statewide.

### **SOLUTION**

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This bill, based on San Diego's successful encampment ordinance, will help compassionately clear encampments and help improve public safety and public health. Specifically, this bill will:

1. **Prohibit encampments near schools, open spaces, or major transit stops.** This will help protect our most vulnerable population: our children;
2. **Prohibit camping on sidewalks if a homeless shelter is available.** This will protect pedestrians' need to utilize sidewalks for travel without unfairly inconveniencing homeless individuals.
3. **Require a 72-hour warning before an encampment is cleared.** This will give homeless individuals a chance to find alternatives and accept services before their encampment is cleared; and
4. **Require enforcement officers to provide information about sleeping alternatives, homeless and mental health services, and/or homeless shelters in the area.** This will help connect homeless individuals to desperately needed services.

This bill strikes an appropriate balance between accountability and compassion while tackling the homelessness crisis and putting public health and public safety as the top priority.

### **CONTACT**

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John McHale  
[John.McHale@sen.ca.gov](mailto:John.McHale@sen.ca.gov)  
916-651-4040