

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair
AB 1118 (Blanca Rubio) – As Introduced February 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Land use: general plan: livability issues for older adults.

SUMMARY: Requires the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to address livability issues for older adults in the General Plan Guidelines (GPG). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires, beginning on January 1, 2020, upon the next revision of GPGs, OPR shall amend the guidelines to include elements of the domains of livability developed by the World Health Organization that specifically address livability issues for older adults.
- 2) Finds and declares that the state can enhance its ability to meet the needs of older adults in the community planning process by designating the state a livable state for all ages and abilities and by becoming a member of the national AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires OPR to regularly review and revise the GPGs.
- 2) Provides that the GPGs are advisory to each city and county in order to provide assistance in preparing and maintaining their respective general plans.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Bill Summary.** This bill requires, beginning on January 1, 2020, upon the next revision of GPGs, OPR to amend the GPGs to include elements of the domains of livability developed by the World Health Organization that specifically address livability issues for older adults.

This bill is sponsored by AARP.

- 2) **Author’s Statement.** According to the author, “The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research is already using the framework of Healthy Living for All and collaborates across agencies to create policies and recommendations in the State General Plan that gives local government guidance as they plan for the future. We know that California is expected to reach 50 million residents by the year 2050, and an estimated 2.26 million individuals will be 85 years old, a 274 percent increase since 2010. We need to plan today for the future of the aging population, and AB 1118 is a proactive approach to creating an Age Friendly California to make optimal use of limited resources. We are simply asking for OPR to include the Age Friendly 8 domains as a guide in updating the State General Plan.”
- 3) **Background.** The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations, established in 1948, that promotes international public health and well-being. In 2007, the World Health Organization released an age-friendly cities’ guide that highlights eight specific domains of livability issues that cities and communities can address in order to better

service the needs of older adults. The domains are: 1) outdoor spaces and buildings; 2) transportation; 3) housing; 4) social participation; 5) respect and social inclusion; 6) civic participation and employment; 7) communication and information; and, 8) community support and health services. Within each domain, the World Health Organization provides insight, examples of best practices, data, and recommendations for improvement.

- 4) **Arguments in Support.** AARP, the sponsor of this bill, states, “By developing age-friendly communities across the Golden State, we improve social connections and build supportive social networks that protect individuals against isolation and allow them to maintain their independence and well-being while remaining in their own homes and communities as they age.”
- 5) **Arguments in Opposition.** The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) writes that “while OPR has expertise in land use issues, it does not have expertise in housing construction and design.” CBIA opposes the bill, “unless it is amended to prohibit including the provisions of the WHO document dealing with housing in OPR’s guidelines.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

AARP [SPONSOR]
California Walks

Opposition

California Business Industry Association (unless amended)

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