



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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June 10, 2022

Hon. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5210
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 903 (Hertzberg), as introduced – Support
Hearing: Assembly Public Safety Committee – June 14, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

The Judicial Council is in support of SB 903, which requires the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) to examine the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) efforts to address the housing needs of incarcerated persons, including those who are identified as having serious mental health needs, who are released to the community as parolees or subject to postrelease community supervision. The bill also requires the board to examine the department's efforts to address the housing needs of incarcerated persons, including those who are identified as having serious mental health needs and are released to the community as parolees or subject to postrelease community supervision.

The council supports SB 903 because providing the appropriate level of services to individuals released from prison helps avoid recidivism, especially for individuals having serious mental health needs. Requiring C-ROB to examine CDCR's effort to address the needs of parolees or those subject to post-release community supervision, including those with serious mental health needs, and to include an analysis in its annual report to the Governor and the Legislature, is a prudent step to identify the support services necessary to avoid recidivism.

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Further, since individuals who have mental health needs often experience homelessness after release from prison, they often end up in the criminal justice system again, specifically in mental health and homeless courts. As noted in [Final Report From the Work Group on Homelessness to the Chief Justice \(the Homelessness Report\)](#), housing instability due to a history of incarceration increases the likelihood that a person will experience homelessness by 10 to 13 times. The report also noted that homelessness and mental health problems can impede people's ability to engage with the courts and the justice system.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council supports SB 903.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sharon Reilly at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Uploaded June 10, 2022

Cory T. Jaspersen
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/SR/mc

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Hon. Robert M. Hertzberg, Senator, 18th District
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California