



ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Wendy Carrillo

DISTRICT 52



Assembly Bill (AB) 1215: Pet Assistance with Support (PAWS) Program

SUMMARY

AB 1215 would re-establish the Pet Assistance with Support (Paws) Program to award grants to homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters, for food and basic veterinarian services for pets owned by people experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence.

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

The results of the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority estimated that 69,144 people were experiencing homelessness in LA County at that time, a 4.1% rise from 2020, and 41,980 people were experiencing homelessness in the City of LA itself, up 1.7% from 2020. Among that population, it is estimated that 5-10% percent own a dog or a cat. With a majority of motels, homeless shelters, and assisted housing programs not permitting animals on their property, abandoning an animal companion becomes a cost of finding living accommodations. Shelters lacking the necessary resources to account for pets thus present a direct hurdle to an unhoused person looking to find a temporary housing situation.

SOLUTION

AB 1215 would re-establish the Pet Assistance with Support (PAWS) Program to administer and

award grants to homeless and domestic violence shelters. Individuals experiencing homelessness or DV often are denied shelter if they don't surrender their pets. Studies show that pets provide comfort and help with trauma and abuse. When pets are surrendered, less than 15% are reunited, furthering depression and anxiety. The program provides food and basic veterinarian services for pets and allows pathways for permanent housing placement.

SUPPORT

Humane Society - California (co-sponsor)
Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (co-sponsor)
People Assisting the Homeless (co-sponsor)

BILL STATUS

Introduced - 2/16/23 - Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development

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