

# Assembly California Legislature



## AB 2207 (Reyes): Increasing Representation of Older Adults in State's Decision-Making Spaces

### SUMMARY

AB 2207 would increase the representation of older adults on six state boards, commissions, and advisory committees.

### BACKGROUND

Californians are living longer than ever before. In 2019, the state had the second highest average life expectancy in the United States at 80.9 years old. By 2030, adults 60 and over will be more racially and ethnically diverse, making up over 25% of California's population.

The challenges California's older adults face today include higher rates of depression, anxiety and cognitive impairment, limited incomes and a lack of affordable housing. Nearly half of California's unhoused adults are over the age of 50, making this population the fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness. From 2017 to 2021, California's overall older adult population grew by 7%, but the number of people 55 and over who sought homelessness services increased 84% — more than any other age group — according to the state's Homeless Data Integration System.

California has the highest percentage of older adults living at or below the poverty level.

Additionally, today's older adults are unserved and underserved relative to their behavioral and mental health needs. For example, in 2020, only 26,697 older adults received behavioral health services even though it is estimated that at least 700,000 older people needed services.

The California Master Plan on Aging includes a goal of "Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation." As the population of older adults continues to grow, it is critical for the state to ensure that the voices of older adults are adequately represented in California's decision-making spaces. Aligning with California's Master Plan on Aging, this bill works to increase representation on state boards, commissions, and advisory committees that impact the lives of older adults.

### THIS BILL

AB 2207 would modify the membership of the following boards, commissions, and advisory committees to include a representative from the California Commission on Aging and/or the California Department of Aging:

- California Workforce Development Board
- Department of Health Care Access and Information's Workforce Education and Training Council
- Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
- California Behavioral Health Planning Council
- Advisory Committee to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee

#### **SUPPORT**

- California Commission on Aging (sponsor)

#### **CONTACT**

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