



## Legislation Summary:

### **An Act to protect families experiencing homelessness from having to sleep in unsafe places**

Initial bill number: [H659](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsor: Rep. Marjorie Decker

This bill undoes a regulation of the Department of Housing and Community Development that has been controversial for many years that requires that families who are otherwise eligible for emergency assistance first spend at least one night in a place not designated for or ordinarily used for human sleeping. Families resort to places such as a car, an abandoned building, a hospital emergency room, a bus or train station or airport to keep warm and as safe as possible until they can be granted shelter space.

**League position:** The LWVUS position is that the League supports “programs and policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.” Although the position places primary responsibility on the federal government, “State and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.”

Also “When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.”