

**Senate Bill No. 258**

CHAPTER 132

An act to amend Section 9015 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to aging.

[Approved by Governor July 23, 2021. Filed with Secretary of State July 23, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 258, Laird. Aging.

Existing law, the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging and sets forth its mission to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments. Existing law requires the department, in allocating specified state and federal funding to area agencies on aging, to ensure that priority consideration is given to criteria that reflect the state's intent to target services to those in greatest economic or social need. Existing law defines "greatest social need" to mean the need caused by noneconomic factors, including physical and mental disabilities, that restrict an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks or that threaten the individual's capacity to live independently.

This bill would revise this definition to include human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status as a specified noneconomic factor.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 9015 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

9015. "Greatest social need" means the need caused by noneconomic factors that restrict an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks or that threaten an individual's capacity to live independently. These factors include physical or mental disability, language barriers, and cultural or social isolation caused by, among other things, racial and ethnic status, sexual orientation, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status, gender identity, or gender expression.

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