



## **SB 872 – Mobile Pharmacy Vans**

### **SUMMARY**

SB 872 would allow a county, or city and county, to operate a mobile pharmacy, staffed by a physician, pharmacist, and pharmacy technician to provide medications, vaccines, and related services to people experiencing homelessness and provide similar services to other vulnerable populations lacking access to health services.

### **BACKGROUND**

People experiencing homelessness, and those who lack transportation and financial means to obtain medications from fixed pharmacy locations, often simply go without their medications. While physicians are allowed to practice in a mobile setting, and can go directly to serve those in need, the law is much more limited regarding pharmacies. This leads to situations where a person has been seen by a doctor, has prescription in hand, but either lacks transportation or access to a pharmacy to fill their prescription.

### **EXISTING LAW**

A pharmacist's scope of practice includes consultation, training, and education to patients about drugs. Current law does not allow pharmacies to operate in mobile facilities, except in very limited circumstances. This severely limits counties' ability to bring medication to these individuals for whom the counties have a responsibility to provide services.

### **THIS BILL**

SB 872 will provide counties with a way to get much needed health services to vulnerable populations. It will allow mobile pharmacy licensed by the Board of Pharmacy, staffed by a pharmacist, (and at the option of the county, a clinician qualified to perform medical exams and prescribe medications) to go directly into communities, homeless encampments and similar venues such as transitional housing locations. Once there, they are able to see patients, prescribe medication, provide medical exams and dispense on site. Controlled substances would not be provided. Medications that would be provided include those that are otherwise provided by the counties, including but not limited to, for diabetes, hypertension, antibiotics, certain infectious diseases, and the treatment of mental health conditions.

### **SUPPORT**

County of San Diego (sponsor)  
County of Santa Clara (sponsor)  
County of Contra Costa (Support)

### **CONTACT**

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