



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1123 (Mayes) – Dispute Resolution Programs: Court Administration
As introduced February 27, 2015 – (SPONSOR)
Set for Hearing April 21, 2015 – Assembly Judiciary Committee

Dear Assemblyman Stone:

As sponsors of AB 1123, legislation that would allow for the formal transfer of revenues and responsibilities under the Dispute Resolution Programs Act of 1986 on a permissive basis upon agreement by the County and local court, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your support when the bill comes before your committee.

The Dispute Resolution Program Act of 1986 provides for the establishment and funding of local dispute resolution programs. The purpose of the Act is to encourage the establishment and use of local dispute resolution services as an alternative to formal court proceedings. The program is funded by civil filing fee surcharges. The County of San Bernardino operates a dispute resolution program that has been administered by the San Bernardino Court since 2004. This is particularly important in the County of San Bernardino given the limited number of judicial positions relative to caseload.

The County of San Bernardino has maintained involvement because the code sections require that the funds are deposited with the County. However, in practice, the funds are administered by the Court. Questions have arisen regarding responsibility for procurement and contracting authority, often resulting in duplicative work performed by the Court and San Bernardino County. This lengthens the time needed to procure services, confuses the process and vendors, who are uncertain as to who they are ultimately responsible to.

AB 1123 would allow for the transfer of revenues and responsibilities under the Act on a permissive basis to formalize the County's current practice, whereby the Court administers the funds and oversees operations, reduce staff time, increase efficiencies and eliminate confusion over program authority and procurement processes.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your support for AB 1123. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Honorable Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Member, California State Assembly
Consultants, Assembly Judiciary Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation