

1 [Support Assembly Bill 1019]

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Resolution urging support of Assembly Bill 1019, the Alcohol-Related Services Act to deliver services to, and ensure the public health and safety of, the people of California supported by a reasonable and rational mitigation fee

WHEREAS, Alcohol-related problems cost Californians an estimated \$38.4 billion annually, including costs for alcohol-related illness and injury, criminal justice, lost productivity, as well as impacts on the welfare system, trauma and emergency care, and the foster care system, among other costs; and

WHEREAS, The State of California budget requires revenues from fee programs to mitigate harm and avoid devastating cuts to programs and elimination of alcohol-related programs, and

WHEREAS, Alcohol use drains California's state and county governments of approximately \$8.3 billion annually in increased health care costs, criminal justice costs, and lost tax base, while the income to the state in alcohol licensing, fees, excise taxes, and sales taxes is less than \$1 billion annually, and

WHEREAS, Quality of life costs of pain and suffering additionally cost \$48.8 billion annually, and

WHEREAS, Over 10,000 lives are lost each year to alcohol use, meaning one person dies *every hour* due to alcohol consumption in California, and

1 WHEREAS, The total number of incidents of harm related to alcohol is over 920,000,
2 meaning there are *100 incidents every hour*, of injuries, crimes or high-risk sex, and

3 WHEREAS, 90% of alcohol-related crime costs are from violent crime, including
4 homicide, assault, rape, robbery, and child abuse, and

5 WHEREAS, The number of assaults caused by alcohol use tops 369,000, which
6 includes 26,000 instances of rape, and more than 10,000 child abuse cases, both physical
7 and sexual, and

8 WHEREAS, More than 649,000 alcohol-fueled crimes cost California \$7.8 billion, of
9 which 74% is paid for by government tax dollars, and

10 WHEREAS, 26 percent of all traffic collisions are caused by alcohol, which are
11 responsible for an estimated 1,144 deaths and cost California \$8.4 billion, and

12 WHEREAS, Alcohol-related accidents are the leading cause of death among
13 teenagers and the cause of many permanently disabling injuries, and

14 WHEREAS, The use of alcohol is a major cause of hospital emergency room and
15 trauma care treatment, and greatly contributes to the need for transportation costs such as
16 ambulance costs, and

17 WHEREAS, Alcohol use is closely associated with mental illness and contributes
18 enormously to the cost of treating the mentally ill, and

19 WHEREAS, Effective prevention and treatment services for youth increase school
20 attendance and academic performance, and

1 WHEREAS, The use of alcohol is a factor in the majority of child and spousal abuse
2 cases, and is frequently associated with the abuse of the elderly, mentally ill, and mentally
3 retarded residents of long-term care facilities, and

4 WHEREAS, There are significant benefits of alcohol treatment and recovery programs
5 and they are effective; and people who complete treatment find employment and pay taxes,
6 no longer suffer from alcohol problems, and become productive members of their
7 communities, and

8 WHEREAS, State, county and municipal regulatory and service programs are
9 necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of alcohol use, and
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11 WHEREAS, The alcohol industry currently pays only administrative, licensing fees at
12 the state level to offset or mitigate the enormous costs its products impose on California, and

13 WHEREAS, Alcohol sales and consumption in this county generates the need for
14 numerous regulatory and service programs, costing this county millions of dollars annually,
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, The alcohol industry rarely pays only administrative fees or nuisance law
18 enforcement fees at the local and county levels, and

19 WHEREAS, Through AB1019 the California Legislature and Governor may impose a
20 regulatory fee within the guidelines and limitations approved by the Supreme Court of
21 California in Sinclair Paint Co. v. State Bd. of Equalization (1997) 15 Cal.4th 866, and
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23 WHEREAS, There is a nexus between regulatory programs and the source of harm,
24 which is the alcohol product, and there is a rational basis for the assessment of fees
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1 statewide for costs to the state government for past, present and future harm and for new and
2 old programs to mitigate harm, and

3 WHEREAS, The statutory definitions of alcohol in beer, wine, and distilled spirits
4 categories have been used consistently in police power regulations of the state, and therefore
5 are a rational basis for mitigation fee assessment, and

6 WHEREAS, It is reasonable to assess state mitigation fees at the wholesale level of
7 the stream of commerce, as most alcohol products are made outside of California and the
8 ownership and corporate structure is largely foreign causing practical complications, while
9 retail sales locations are much more numerous than wholesale operations and therefore less
10 efficiently assessed, and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco Fire
12 Department, the San Francisco Sherriff's Department, San Francisco's Department of Public
13 Health and San Francisco's Human Service Agency spend significant amounts of their
14 budgets responding to alcohol related problems; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Department estimates that it spends \$78,000 per
16 day on alcohol related response calls in the City and County of San Francisco; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 urge support of AB 1019, the Alcohol-Related Services Act to deliver services to, and ensure
20 the public health and safety of, the people of California supported by a reasonable and
21 rational mitigation fee.
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