AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2019 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 68

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting (Coauthor: Assembly Member Gloria) (Coauthors: Senators Skinner and Wiener)

December 3, 2018

An act to amend Sections 65852.2 and 65852.22 of the Government Code, relating to land use.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 68, as amended, Ting. Land use: accessory dwelling units.

(1) The Planning and Zoning Law authorizes a local agency to provide, by ordinance, for the creation of accessory dwelling units in single-family and multifamily residential zones and sets forth required ordinance standards, including, among others, lot coverage.

This bill would delete the provision authorizing the imposition of standards on lot coverage and would prohibit an ordinance from imposing requirements on minimum lot size.

(2) Existing law requires a local agency to ministerially approve or deny a permit application for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit within 120 days of receiving the application.

This bill would instead require a local agency to ministerially approve or deny a permit application for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit permit within 60 days-of receipt. from the date the local agency receives a completed application.

 $AB 68 \qquad -2 -$

(3) Existing law prohibits the establishment by ordinance of minimum or maximum size for an accessory dwelling unit, or size based upon a percentage of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, if the limitations do not permit at least an efficiency unit to be constructed.

This bill would instead prohibit the imposition of those limitations if they do not permit at least an 800 square foot accessory dwelling unit that is at least 16 feet in height with 4-foot side and rear yard setbacks. This bill would additionally prohibit the imposition of limits on lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, and minimum lot size if they prohibit the construction of an accessory dwelling unit meeting those specifications.

(4) Existing law requires ministerial approval of a permit to create one accessory dwelling unit within a single-family dwelling, subject to specified conditions and requirements.

This bill would require ministerial approval of an application for a permit to create one or more accessory dwelling units or junior accessory dwelling units on a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling or multifamily dwelling, subject to specified conditions and requirements.

(5) Existing law authorizes a local agency ordinance for accessory dwelling units to require that a permit applicant be an owner-occupant or that the property be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days.

This bill would provide that, if a local agency imposes an owner-occupancy restriction, the monitoring for compliance shall not be more frequent than annually and shall be based on specified published documents. The bill would describe owner-occupant for purposes of that requirement.

(6)

(5) Existing law requires a local agency to submit its accessory dwelling unit ordinance to the Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption and authorizes the department to review and comment on the ordinance.

This bill would instead authorize the department to submit written findings to a local agency as to whether the local ordinance complies with state law, would require the local agency to consider the department's findings and to amend its ordinance to comply with state law or adopt a resolution with specified findings. The bill would require the department to notify the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law if the local agency does not amend its ordinance or adopt a resolution with specified findings.

3 AB 68

- (6) This bill would also prohibit a local agency from issuing a certificate of occupancy for an accessory dwelling unit before issuing a certificate of occupancy for the primary residence.
- (7) Existing law authorizes a local agency to adopt an ordinance providing for the creation of junior accessory dwelling units in single-family residential zones, and requires a local agency to ministerially approve or deny an application for a junior accessory dwelling unit within 120 days of submission of the application.

This bill would instead require a local agency to ministerially approve or deny an application for a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days of submission of the from the date a local agency receives a completed application. The bill would require a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance for the creation of junior accessory dwelling units to apply the same standards established by this bill for local agencies with ordinances.

- (8) This bill would make other conforming changes, including revising definitions and changes clarifying that the above-specified provisions regulating accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units also apply to the creation of accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units on proposed structures to be constructed.
- (9) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- SECTION 1. Section 65852.2 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 3 65852.2. (a) (1) A local agency may, by ordinance, provide
- 4 for the creation of accessory dwelling units in areas zoned to allow
- 5 single-family or multifamily use. The ordinance shall do all of the
- 6 following:
- (A) Designate areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency
- where accessory dwelling units may be permitted. The designation
- 9 of areas may be based on criteria that may include, but are not

AB 68 —4—

limited to, the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety.

- (B) (i) Impose standards on accessory dwelling units that include, but are not limited to, parking, height, setback, landscape, architectural review, maximum size of a unit, and standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historic Places. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.
- (ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a local agency may reduce or eliminate parking requirements for any accessory dwelling unit located within its jurisdiction.
- (C) Provide that accessory dwelling units do not exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which the accessory dwelling unit is located, and that accessory dwelling units are a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designation for the lot.
- (D) Require the accessory dwelling units to comply with all of the following:
- (i) The unit may be rented separate from the primary residence, but may not be sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence.
- (ii) The lot is zoned to allow single-family or multifamily use and includes a proposed or existing single-family dwelling.
- (iii) The accessory dwelling unit is attached or located within the living area of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, attached or located within an accessory structure, or detached from the proposed or existing primary dwelling and located on the same lot as the proposed or existing primary dwelling.
- (iv) The total floor area of an attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 50 percent of the proposed or existing primary dwelling living area or 1,200 square feet.
- (v) The total floor area for a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 1,200 square feet.
- (vi) No passageway shall be required in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.
- (vii) No setback shall be required for an existing living area or accessory structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure that is converted to an accessory dwelling unit or to a portion of an accessory dwelling unit, and a setback of no more than four feet

5 AB 68

from the side and rear lot lines shall be required for an accessory dwelling unit that is not converted from an existing structure or a new structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

- (viii) Local building code requirements that apply to detached dwellings, as appropriate.
- (ix) Approval by the local health officer where a private sewage disposal system is being used, if required.
- (x) (I) Parking requirements for accessory dwelling units shall not exceed one parking space per unit or per bedroom, whichever is less. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on a driveway.
- (II) Offstreet parking shall be permitted in setback areas in locations determined by the local agency or through tandem parking, unless specific findings are made that parking in setback areas or tandem parking is not feasible based upon specific site or regional topographical or fire and life safety conditions.
- (III) This clause shall not apply to a unit that is described in subdivision (d).
- (xi) When a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit or converted to an accessory dwelling unit, the local agency shall not require that those offstreet parking spaces be replaced.
- (2) The ordinance shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.
- (3) A permit application shall be considered ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits, within 60 days—after receiving the from the date the local agency receives a completed application. A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse it for costs that it incurs as a result of amendments to this paragraph enacted during the 2001–02 Regular Session of the Legislature, including the costs of adopting or amending any ordinance that provides for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.
- (4) An existing ordinance governing the creation of an accessory dwelling unit by a local agency or an accessory dwelling ordinance adopted by a local agency after January 1, 2017, shall provide an approval process that includes only ministerial provisions for the

 $AB 68 \qquad \qquad -6 -$

approval of accessory dwelling units and shall not include any discretionary processes, provisions, or requirements for those units, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. If a local agency has an existing accessory dwelling unit ordinance that fails to meet one or more of the requirements of this subdivision, that ordinance shall be null and void to the extent of such conflict on January 1, 2017, and that agency shall thereafter apply the applicable standards or standards established in this subdivision for the approval of accessory dwelling units, unless and until the agency amends its ordinance to comply with this section.

- (5) No other local ordinance, policy, or regulation shall be the basis for the delay or denial of a building permit or a use permit under this subdivision.
- (6) This subdivision establishes the maximum standards that local agencies shall use to evaluate a proposed accessory dwelling unit on a lot zoned for residential use that includes a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. No additional standards, other than those provided in this subdivision, shall be used or imposed, except that a local agency may require an applicant for a permit issued pursuant to this subdivision to be an owner-occupant or that the property be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days.—If an ordinance imposes an owner-occupancy restriction, this restriction shall not be monitored more frequently than annually based on published public documents that evidence residency, including, but not limited to, a driver's license, school registration, or a voter registration document. For purposes of this requirement, an owner-occupant shall include any of the following:
- (A) An owner of the lot who occupies the primary dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit.
- (B) A trust in which ownership of the lot is placed if at least one beneficiary of the trust occupies the primary dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit.
- (C) An organization that owns the lot in order to provide long-term, deed-restricted affordable housing that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a local agency.
- (7) A local agency may amend its zoning ordinance or general plan to incorporate the policies, procedures, or other provisions applicable to the creation of an accessory dwelling unit if these provisions are consistent with the limitations of this subdivision.

7 AB 68

(8) An accessory dwelling unit that conforms to this subdivision shall be deemed to be an accessory use or an accessory building and shall not be considered to exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which it is located, and shall be deemed to be a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designations for the lot. The accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

- (b) When a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a) receives an application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit pursuant to this subdivision, the local agency shall approve or disapprove the application ministerially without discretionary review pursuant to subdivision (a) within 60 days after receiving the from the date the local agency receives a completed application.
- (c) A local agency may establish minimum and maximum unit size requirements for both attached and detached accessory dwelling units. No minimum or maximum size for an accessory dwelling unit, or size based upon a percentage of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, or limits on lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, and minimum lot size, shall be established by ordinance for either attached or detached dwellings that does not permit at least an 800 square foot accessory dwelling unit that is at least 16 feet in height with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks to be constructed in compliance with all other local development standards. Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a local agency, whether or not it has adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a), shall not impose parking standards for an accessory dwelling unit in any of the following instances:
- (1) The accessory dwelling unit is located within one-half mile of public transit.
- (2) The accessory dwelling unit is located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.
- (3) The accessory dwelling unit is part of the proposed or existing primary residence or an accessory structure.

AB 68 —8—

(4) When on-street parking permits are required but not offered to the occupant of the accessory dwelling unit.

- (5) When there is a car share vehicle located within one block of the accessory dwelling unit.
- (e) (1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following:
- (A) One accessory dwelling unit and one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling if all of the following apply:
- (i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is substantially within the proposed or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure, including, but not limited to, remodeling or reconstruction of an existing space with substantially the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure.
- (ii) The space has exterior access from the proposed or existing single-family dwelling.
 - (iii) The side and rear setbacks are sufficient for fire and safety.
- (iv) The junior accessory dwelling unit complies with the requirements of Section 65852.22.
- (B) One detached, new construction, single-story accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks for a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. The accessory dwelling unit may be combined with a junior accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A). A local agency may impose the following conditions on the accessory dwelling unit:
 - (i) A total floor area limitation of not more than 800 square feet.
 - (ii) A height limitation of 16 feet.
- (C) Multiple accessory dwelling units within the portions of existing multifamily dwelling structures that are not used as livable space, including, but not limited to, storage rooms, boiler rooms, passageways, attics, or garages, if each unit complies with state building standards for dwellings.
- (D) Not more than two accessory dwelling units that are located on a lot that has an existing multifamily dwelling, but are detached from that multifamily dwelling and are subject to a height limit of 16 feet and four-foot rear yard and side setbacks.

-9- AB 68

(2) A local agency shall not require, as a condition for ministerial approval, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.

- (3) The installation of fire sprinklers shall not be required in an accessory dwelling unit if sprinklers are not required for the primary residence.
- (4) A local agency may require owner occupancy for either the primary dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit on a single-family lot, subject to the requirements of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).
- (5) A local agency shall require that a rental of the accessory dwelling unit created pursuant to this subdivision be for a term longer than 30 days.
- (6) Subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (1) shall not apply to a local agency that has adopted an ordinance by July 1, 2018, providing for the approval of accessory dwelling units in multifamily dwelling structures.
- (f) (1) Fees charged for the construction of accessory dwelling units shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 66000) and Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 66012).
- (2) Accessory dwelling units shall not be considered by a local agency, special district, or water corporation to be a new residential use for purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer service.
- (A) For an accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not require the applicant to install a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility or impose a related connection fee or capacity charge.
- (B) For an accessory dwelling unit that is not described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation may require a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility. Consistent with Section 66013, the connection may be subject to a connection fee or capacity charge that shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed accessory dwelling unit, based upon either its size or the number of its plumbing fixtures, upon the water or sewer system. This fee or charge shall not exceed the reasonable cost of providing this service.

AB 68 -10 -

(g) This section does not limit the authority of local agencies to adopt less restrictive requirements for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

- (h) (1) A local agency shall submit a copy of the ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption.
- (2) (A) The department may submit written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with this section. If the department finds that the ordinance does not comply with this section, it shall notify the local agency that it is in violation of this section and shall provide the local agency a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days, to respond to the findings before taking any other action authorized by this section.
- (B) The local agency shall consider findings made by the department pursuant to subparagraph (A) and shall do one of the following:
 - (i) Amend its ordinance to comply with this section.
- (ii) Adopt a resolution with findings explaining the reason the ordinance complies with this section and addressing the department's findings.
- (C) If the local agency does not amend its ordinance in response to the department's findings or does not adopt a resolution with findings explaining the reason the ordinance complies with this section and addressing the department's findings, the department shall notify the local agency and may notify the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law.
 - (i) As used in this section, the following terms apply:
- (1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family *or multifamily* dwelling is or will be situated. An accessory dwelling unit also includes the following:
- 35 (A) An efficiency unit, as defined in Section 17958.1 of the 36 Health and Safety Code.
- 37 (B) A manufactured home, as defined in Section 18007 of the 38 Health and Safety Code.

-11- AB 68

(2) "Accessory structure" means an existing, fixed structure, including, but not limited to, a garage, studio, pool house, or other similar structure.

- (3) "Living area" means the interior habitable area of a dwelling unit, including basements and attics but does not include a garage or any accessory structure.
- (4) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.
- (5) "Nonconforming zoning condition" means a physical improvement on a property that does not conform with current zoning standards.
- (6) "Passageway" means a pathway that is unobstructed clear to the sky and extends from a street to one entrance of the accessory dwelling unit.
- (7) "Tandem parking" means that two or more automobiles are parked on a driveway or in any other location on a lot, lined up behind one another.
- (j) A local agency shall not issue a certificate of occupancy for an accessory dwelling unit before the local agency issues a certificate of occupancy for the primary dwelling.

(j)

- (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local government shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for accessory dwelling units.
- SEC. 2. Section 65852.22 of the Government Code is amended to read:
- 65852.22. (a) Notwithstanding Section 65852.2, a local agency may, by ordinance, provide for the creation of junior accessory dwelling units in single-family residential zones. The ordinance may require a permit to be obtained for the creation of a junior accessory dwelling unit, and shall do all of the following:
- (1) Limit the number of junior accessory dwelling units to one per residential lot zoned for single-family residences with a single-family residence built, or proposed to be built, on the lot.
- (2) Require owner-occupancy in the single-family residence in which the junior accessory dwelling unit will be permitted. The owner may reside in either the remaining portion of the structure

 $AB 68 \qquad -12 -$

or the newly created junior accessory dwelling unit. Owner-occupancy shall not be required if the owner is another governmental agency, land trust, or housing organization.

- (3) Require the recordation of a deed restriction, which shall run with the land, shall be filed with the permitting agency, and shall include both of the following:
- (A) A prohibition on the sale of the junior accessory dwelling unit separate from the sale of the single-family residence, including a statement that the deed restriction may be enforced against future purchasers.
- (B) A restriction on the size and attributes of the junior accessory dwelling unit that conforms with this section.
- (4) Require a permitted junior accessory dwelling unit to be constructed within the walls of the proposed or existing single-family residence.
- (5) Require a permitted junior accessory dwelling to include a separate entrance from the main entrance to the proposed or existing single-family residence, with an interior entry to the main living area. A permitted junior accessory dwelling may include a second interior doorway for sound attenuation.
- (6) Require the permitted junior accessory dwelling unit to include an efficiency kitchen, which shall include all of the following:
 - (A) A sink with a maximum waste line diameter of 1.5 inches.
- (B) A cooking facility with appliances that do not require electrical service greater than 120 volts, or natural or propane gas.
- (C) A food preparation counter and storage cabinets that are of reasonable size in relation to the size of the junior accessory dwelling unit.
- (b) (1) An ordinance shall not require additional parking as a condition to grant a permit.
- (2) This subdivision shall not be interpreted to prohibit the requirement of an inspection, including the imposition of a fee for that inspection, to determine if the junior accessory dwelling unit complies with applicable building standards.
- (c) An application for a permit pursuant to this section shall, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits, be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or a hearing. A permit shall be issued local agency shall issue a permit within

-13- AB 68

60 days of submission of an from the date the local agency receives a completed application for a permit pursuant to this section. A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse the local agency for costs incurred in connection with the issuance of a permit pursuant to this section.

- (d) For purposes of any fire or life protection ordinance or regulation, a junior accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered a separate or new dwelling unit. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a city, county, city and county, or other local public entity from adopting an ordinance or regulation relating to fire and life protection requirements within a single-family residence that contains a junior accessory dwelling unit so long as the ordinance or regulation applies uniformly to all single-family residences within the zone regardless of whether the single-family residence includes a junior accessory dwelling unit or not.
- (e) For purposes of providing service for water, sewer, or power, including a connection fee, a junior accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered a separate or new dwelling unit.
- (f) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a local agency from adopting an ordinance or regulation, related to parking or a service or a connection fee for water, sewer, or power, that applies to a single-family residence that contains a junior accessory dwelling unit, so long as that ordinance or regulation applies uniformly to all single-family residences regardless of whether the single-family residence includes a junior accessory dwelling unit.
- (g) If a local agency has not adopted a local ordinance pursuant to this section, the local agency shall ministerially approve a permit to construct a junior accessory dwelling unit that satisfies the requirements set forth in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 65852.2 and the requirements of this section.
- (h) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (1) "Junior accessory dwelling unit" means a unit that is no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within a single-family residence. A junior accessory dwelling unit may include separate sanitation facilities, or may share sanitation facilities with the existing structure.
- (2) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

AB 68 —14—

- 1 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
- 2 Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because
- 3 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
- 4 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or
- 5 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section
- 6 17556 of the Government Code.