

# Assembly Bill 2580

Accountability in Historic Preservation  
Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (AD-14)

## SUMMARY

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AB 2580 enhances the transparency of newly adopted historical designations by adding the requirement that local jurisdictions report these designations to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in their Annual Progress Reports (APR). It also requires historic preservation policies and practices to be evaluated as potential constraints on housing in the Housing Element process.

## ISSUE

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Historic preservation plays a vital role in protecting California's cultural heritage. As the legislature continues to address the severe housing shortage in the state, it is essential to balance development of critically-needed housing production with protecting valuable historic resources.

Under current law, the process for designating a historic resource or district at the local or state level does not require any assessment of the potential impact on the community's ability to meet its housing needs. Moreover, the impact of existing historic districts often goes unassessed by local governments during the review of governmental constraints on housing required for the Housing Element update process. This leaves a gap in understanding of how historic preservation practices affect the availability of adequate affordable housing.

## SOLUTION

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AB 2580 would provide transparency by requiring local governments to report historic designations to HCD as an element of their APR, including an assessment of how those designations affect the ability of the city to meet its housing needs. It would further enhance accountability by adding an assessment of historic preservation policies and practices as potential constraints on housing to HCD's review of local Housing Elements.

## SUPPORT

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California YIMBY (Sponsor)

## CONTACT

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