



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 8/23/2022

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File #: 22-1122

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Rex Bohn

**Agenda Section:** Initiated by Board Member

**SUBJECT:**

Consider Sending Letter of Opposition to AB 1608 (Gipson & Weber) Related to Consolidation of Offices of the Sheriff, Coroner and Public Administrator (Supervisor Rex Bohn)

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter of opposition

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

General Fund

**DISCUSSION:**

AB1608 (Gibson & Weber) County Officers: Consolidation of Offices is a proposed bill that seeks to remove county Board of Supervisors authority to combine the duties of the Sheriff and Coroner, in direct conflict with California Government Code Section 24000 which lists the officers of county governments, and provides for the offices of Sheriff (subsection b), Public Administrator (subsection l) and Coroner (subsection m). Section 24305 provides that, for certain counties including Humboldt, the Board of Supervisors by ordinance may consolidate the duties of certain of the county offices in one or more of the following combinations: Public Administrator and Coroner, Sheriff and Coroner, and Sheriff, Coroner, and Public Administrator.

At least four times over the past 35 years, the Board of Supervisors has been faced with the question of whether it would be in the interest of the County to consolidate the offices of Sheriff and Coroner/Public Administrator, and has considered the potential benefits and cost savings while providing adequate staffing coverage and backup for a very small staff in the office of the Coroner. Prior to January 30, 2015, Humboldt County was one of only ten remaining counties in California that did not have a combined Sheriff-Coroner office.

Therefore, on November 5, 2014, when elected Coroner-Public Administrator Dave Parris submitted to the County Administrative Officer a letter detailing his intent to resign from office, effective January 30, 2015, the Board of Supervisors once again visited the option of combining the offices of the

Coroner/Public Administrator with the Sheriff, and at their November 14, 2014 Board meeting, directed staff to return with an ordinance consolidating the elected offices of Sheriff, Coroner and Public Administrator, effective January 30, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There could be a significant financial impact if AB1608 passes. Currently the County has a combined elected office of Sheriff and Coroner. By requiring these offices to function as standalone departments, staffing, resources, security, and additional departmental spaces would be required.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by managing our resources to ensure sustainability of services

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Letter of Opposition
- B. Agenda Item 14-1084
- C. Agenda Item 14-1125

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: H-3 and H-5

Meeting of: November 14, 2014 and December 2, 2015

File No.: 14-1084 and 14-1125