

NEWS > POLITICS

## James Gallagher's housing bill heads to final Senate vote



Assemblyman Jim Gallagher, R-Yuba City, addresses the public at a town hall meeting in Chico. (Natalie Hanson — Enterprise-Record)

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SACRAMENTO — Assemblyman James Gallagher's Camp Fire housing bill was moved out of the Senate Appropriations Committee without a vote Monday, and instead passed directly to a floor vote, which is expected to take place sometime in the next week or two, staff said.

Assembly Bill 430 seeks to establish a streamlined approval process for residential and mixed-use developments within Biggs, Corning, Gridley, Live Oak, Oroville, Orland, Willows and Yuba City — exempting the projects from a lengthy review process under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Republican from Yuba City originally named Chico in the bill, but the city requested to be removed in May. Chico has remained officially opposed, despite no longer being named in the bill, and city Councilor Kasey Reynolds showing up to give her personal support of the bill at committee hearings in Sacramento.

Others in official opposition to the bill include the Butte Environmental Council, Northern California Environmental Defense Center and the Planning and Conservation League.

The bill previously passed through the state Assembly with ease, and was heard in the state Senate's Environmental Quality and Government and Finance committees before it was triple-referred (which is unusual, but not unheard of) to the Appropriations Committee.

During a visit to Paradise last week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Gallagher had approached him about the bill at the beginning of the legislative process. The governor said he gave his general support to it, and that his office was working with the assemblyman.

"It's flying through the legislature," the governor said.

AB430 will likely head to the Senate floor for a vote in early September. If it passes, it will need to return to the Assembly floor for concurrence due to amendments made in the Senate, and then go on to the governor's desk for his approval and signature.

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