



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
1021 O. St, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1637 (Irwin) Local government: internet websites and email addresses
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to AB 1637 (Irwin), which would require a local agency, as defined, that maintains an internet website for use by the public, to ensure that the internet website utilizes a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain, and would require a local agency that maintains an internet website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that internet website to a domain name that does utilize a “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domain.

For background, securing and registering a .gov domain requires that an authorization letter is first submitted to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). CISA’s registrar manages .gov domain hosts and its review process can take long periods of time (weeks to months) before they can fully review and approve a domain. By requiring thousands of California-based local governments (cities, counties, special districts, water authorities, parks, fire, police, sheriff, county hospitals, school districts/students, etc.) to migrate to a .gov domain at the same time, AB 1637 will likely cause interruptions to support lines and create confusion for constituents trying to access critical information on a local government website due to the mandatory migration.

While applying for and obtaining a .gov domain has no fees, there are significant costs that an agency must budget for to recode, establish corresponding e-mail, network login changes, single sign on/multi factor authentication, encryption keys, revising and redesign website/URL links, updating social media, and updating any printed literature as well as stationary. All these costs are increased two-fold if a jurisdiction must co-exist with both the previous and newly acquired domains while the CISA review and approval process is undertaken, and the full transition is completed. This move to a new domain will be costly for every city, county, special district, and school district in California, many of whom struggle to provide for public health and safety for their residents, especially with a recession predicted to be on the horizon.

Mandating the change in domain names will likely require staff to expend effort that could take away from other critical IT services. For some local jurisdictions, IT departments that are stretched to capacity or have limited staff, the work would likely have to be completed by contract labor due to the large number of high-priority projects that IT staff are already engaged in. This would put additional cost constraints on local governments given that the alternative would be to pull IT staff off critical infrastructure projects and life and safety projects, such as mapping wildfires via GIS or assisting with catastrophic flooding events, to complete the .gov migration.

It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE AB 1637 (Irwin).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange