



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6555

LCO No. 3176



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the
2 Commission on Homelessness within the Legislative Branch to review
3 existing and proposed housing policies and advise the General
4 Assembly on (1) strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness; (2) the
5 coordination of services for individuals and families experiencing
6 homelessness; (3) the provision of services and support, such as health
7 care, education and employment training for individuals and families
8 experiencing homelessness; (4) the provision of emergency shelter and
9 long-term housing solutions for individuals and families experiencing
10 homelessness; and (5) the availability and accessibility of affordable
11 housing in the state.

12 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

13 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
14 who has expertise in homelessness policies and programs;

15 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

16 has expertise in fair housing protections;

17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives, who represents a homeless service provider;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who
20 represents a low-income housing advocacy organization;

21 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
22 Representatives, who represents a landlord association;

23 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who
24 represents a faith-based organization that provides services to
25 individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

26 (7) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee.

27 (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivision (1),
28 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
29 of the General Assembly.

30 (d) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
31 than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Appointed
32 members of the commission shall serve for three-year terms which shall
33 commence on the date of appointment and may serve until a successor
34 is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the respective appointing
35 authority pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

36 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
37 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the commission
38 from among the members of the commission. Such chairperson shall
39 schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not
40 later than October 1, 2023.

41 (f) The commission shall have no authority over staffing or personnel
42 matters. Any necessary staff shall be employed by the Joint Committee
43 on Legislative Management, which shall have authority over the hiring,
44 termination and performance review of any staff.

45 (g) The commission shall meet quarterly. Any appointed member
46 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend
47 fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be
48 deemed to have resigned from the commission.

49 (h) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
50 transaction of any business.

51 (i) The members of the commission shall serve without
52 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
53 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
54 their duties.

55 (j) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
56 Obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other
57 agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and available
58 to carry out the purposes in subsection (a) of this section; (2) accept any
59 gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties
60 described in this section; (3) establish bylaws to govern its procedures;
61 and (4) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to
62 carry out the duties described in subsection (a) of this section.

63 (k) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
64 commission shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations
65 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
66 cognizance of matters relating to housing, in accordance with the
67 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

68 (l) The commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the
69 general statutes, employ such employees as may be necessary to carry
70 out the provisions of this section. The commission may enter into such
71 contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of its
72 duties, within the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance
73 with established procedures.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Commission on Homelessness.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]