



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6601

LCO No. 3513



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT DECLARING HOMELESSNESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) It is hereby declared that
2 homelessness constitutes a public health crisis in this state and will
3 continue to constitute a public health crisis until the right of homeless
4 persons to receive essential medical and mental health care services, as
5 guaranteed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1-500 of the general
6 statutes, as amended by this act, is adequately safeguarded and
7 protected.

8 Sec. 2. Section 1-500 of the general statutes is repealed and the
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10 (a) There is created a Homeless Person's Bill of Rights to guarantee
11 that the rights, privacy and property of homeless persons are
12 adequately safeguarded and protected under the laws of this state. The
13 rights afforded homeless persons to ensure that their person, privacy
14 and property are safeguarded and protected, as set forth in subsection
15 (b) of this section, are available only insofar as they are implemented in
16 accordance with other parts of the general statutes, state rules and

17 regulations, federal law, the state Constitution and the United States
18 Constitution. For purposes of this section, "homeless person" has the
19 same meaning as in 42 USC 11302, as amended from time to time.

20 (b) Each homeless person in this state has the right to:

21 (1) Move freely in public spaces, including on public sidewalks, in
22 public parks, on public transportation and in public buildings without
23 harassment or intimidation from law enforcement officers in the same
24 manner as other persons;

25 (2) Have equal opportunities for employment;

26 (3) Receive [emergency] essential medical and mental health care
27 services;

28 (4) Register to vote and to vote;

29 (5) Have personal information protected;

30 (6) Have a reasonable expectation of privacy in his or her personal
31 property; and

32 (7) Receive equal treatment by state and municipal agencies.

33 (c) Each municipality may post in the usual location for municipal
34 notices a notice entitled "HOMELESS PERSON'S BILL OF RIGHTS"
35 that contains the text set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | 1-500 |

PH *Joint Favorable*