

HOUSE BILL 254

C9, F5, L6
HB 1325/24 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0661

By: **Delegate Addison**

Requested: August 9, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Individuals Experiencing Homelessness – Address Requirements – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a public library, a recipient of a certain award from the
4 Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department, a public
5 housing agency, a county, or a municipality from requiring an individual
6 experiencing homelessness to provide a current address in certain circumstances;
7 and generally relating to address requirements for individuals experiencing
8 homelessness.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education
11 Section 23–411
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Housing and Community Development
16 Section 1–103
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Housing and Community Development
21 Section 4–2905
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – Local Government
26 Section 1–201

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
4 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Education**

6 **23–411.**

7 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS” HAS
8 THE SAME MEANING AS “HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL” UNDER THE FEDERAL
9 MCKINNEY–VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.

10 (B) A PUBLIC LIBRARY MAY NOT REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING
11 HOMELESSNESS TO PROVIDE A CURRENT ADDRESS BEFORE ISSUING A LIBRARY
12 CARD TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

13 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

14 **1–103.**

15 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS” HAS
16 THE SAME MEANING AS “HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL” UNDER THE FEDERAL
17 MCKINNEY–VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.

18 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A PROGRAM OPERATED BY THE
19 DEPARTMENT THAT AWARDS GRANTS AND LOANS THAT MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE
20 AFFORDABLE SINGLE–FAMILY OR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING.

21 (C) A RECIPIENT OF AN AWARD MAY NOT REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL
22 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO PROVIDE A CURRENT ADDRESS AS A CONDITION
23 OF ELIGIBILITY ON A RESIDENTIAL APPLICATION.

24 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY
25 TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION.

26 **4–2905.**

27 (A) To be eligible for a housing assistance payment under the State Program, a
28 family shall:

29 (1) reside in the State;

30 (2) be on a federal housing choice voucher waiting list; and

1 (3) meet low-income eligibility limits under the federal Housing Choice
2 Voucher Program or income requirements as determined by the public housing agency.

3 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT OR A PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY MAY NOT REQUIRE**
4 **AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, AS DEFINED IN § 1-103 OF THIS**
5 **ARTICLE, TO PROVIDE A CURRENT ADDRESS AS A CONDITION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A**
6 **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT.**

7 **Article – Local Government**

8 1-201.

9 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS” HAS**
10 **THE SAME MEANING AS “HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL” UNDER THE FEDERAL**
11 **MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.**

12 **(B)** This section does not apply to:

13 (1) an elected official;

14 (2) the head of a unit of a county or municipality who reports directly to:

15 (i) the chief administrative officer of the county or municipality;

16 (ii) an elected executive; or

17 (iii) the governing body of the county or municipality; or

18 (3) the chief administrative officer of the county or municipality.

19 **[(b)] (C)** (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a county
20 or municipality may not require an employee [to reside in the State, county, or municipality
21 or within a specified distance of the State, county, or municipality as a condition of
22 employment], **AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

23 **(I) TO RESIDE IN THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY OR**
24 **WITHIN A SPECIFIED DISTANCE OF THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY; OR**

25 **(II) IF THE EMPLOYEE IS AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING**
26 **HOMELESSNESS, TO PROVIDE A CURRENT ADDRESS.**

27 (2) A county or municipality may require an at-will supervisory employee
28 to reside in the State, county, or municipality or within a specified distance of the State,
29 county, or municipality as a condition of employment if the at-will supervisory employee
30 reports directly to the head of a unit of the county or municipality.

1 (3) Subject to subsection ~~[(c)]~~ **(D)** of this section, when making
2 employment, promotion, demotion, layoff, and discharge decisions, a county or municipality
3 may not discriminate based on an individual's place of residence.

4 ~~[(c)]~~ **(D)** A county or municipality may grant a resident of the State, county, or
5 municipality additional points or credits in employment or promotion decisions if the points
6 or credits are provided in accordance with a merit system established by the county or
7 municipality by local law or ordinance.

8 ~~[(d)]~~ **(E)** An agency created under State law that provides governmental services
9 to more than one county or municipality may not require an employee, as a condition of
10 employment, to reside in the State or a county or municipality or within a specified distance
11 of the State, a county, or a municipality for which the agency provides governmental
12 services.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2025.