

Chapter 460

(House Bill 852)

AN ACT concerning

Human Resources – Homeless Shelters – ~~Safety and Security Measures~~ Best Practices and Models

FOR the purpose of requiring the Interagency Council on Homelessness to ~~study issues relating to the safety and security of individuals who stay in certain shelters for homeless individuals and make certain recommendations on measures to be adopted by certain shelters; requiring the Department of Human Resources to include in certain regulations certain measures to be adopted by certain shelters for homeless individuals~~ determine certain best practices and models for providing emergency shelter and shelter diversion; and generally relating to safety and security measures to be adopted by shelters for homeless individuals a determination by the Interagency Council on Homelessness of best practices and models for providing emergency shelter and shelter diversion.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 6-423 ~~and 6-424~~
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

6-423.

The Council shall:

- (1) coordinate State policy and working relationships among State, local, and nonprofit agencies concerning efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness;
- (2) coordinate data sharing between local Continuums of Care;
- (3) coordinate outreach to each Continuum of Care to develop joint strategies that impact State and federal funding efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness;
- (4) determine comprehensive and effective collaborative strategies and best practices for remediation and prevention of homelessness in the State, in particular addressing the differing needs of the State’s geographic areas;

(5) review and analyze the need for and availability of affordable and accessible housing resources to address the needs of homeless individuals throughout the State;

(6) recommend changes necessary to alleviate or prevent homelessness, including making recommendations annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and appropriate State agencies and organizations regarding effective policies, effective distribution of resources, and access to available services and programs;

(7) identify supportive services for special populations, including veterans, youth, families, and individuals with behavioral health problems;

(8) disseminate information and educate the public about the prevalence and causes of and responses to homelessness; [and]

(9) solicit input from the advocacy community, the business community, the faith community, and consumers regarding policy and program development; AND

~~(10) STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO STAY IN SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY PROVIDERS OF SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS DETERMINE BEST PRACTICES AND MODELS FOR PROVIDING EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SHELTER DIVERSION, INCLUDING ENSURING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF SHELTER RESIDENTS, PROVIDING CLIENT-CENTERED AND TRAUMA-INFORMED SUPPORT SERVICES, AND ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO PROTECTED CLASSES UNDER APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.~~

~~6-424.~~

~~(A) The Department shall adopt regulations to govern the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs to make homelessness rare and, if it occurs, of brief duration.~~

~~(B) THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH SAFETY AND SECURITY WHILE STAYING IN A SHELTER, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL UNDER § 6-423(10) OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.