

# HOUSE BILL 794

O1, O4

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CF SB 794

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By: **Delegates M. Washington, Branch, Braveboy, Cullison, Davis, Donoghue, Dumais, Glenn, Harper, Haynes, Kaiser, A. Kelly, McIntosh, A. Miller, S. Robinson, Rudolph, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Planning – Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and**  
3 **Young Adult Count Demonstration Project**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Planning to select a coordinating  
5 entity to oversee the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young  
6 Adult Count Demonstration Project; establishing the purpose of the Project;  
7 requiring the coordinating entity to be selected through a competitive request  
8 for proposal or by sole source contract; requiring the coordinating entity to  
9 determine the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth  
10 and young adults in certain jurisdictions using certain methods; requiring the  
11 coordinating entity to assign each youth participant a unique identifier;  
12 requiring the Department to make every effort to identify non-State sources of  
13 funding to fund the cost of the Project; providing for the termination of this Act;  
14 and generally relating to the Unaccompanied Maryland Homeless Youth and  
15 Young Adult Count Demonstration Project.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) The Department of Planning shall select a coordinating entity to oversee  
19 the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count  
20 Demonstration Project.

21 (b) The purpose of the Project is to:

22 (1) conduct data collection and analysis to determine the number and  
23 characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in each  
24 jurisdiction; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)     on or before September 30, 2016, submit a report to the General  
2 Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the results  
3 of the Project.

4           (c)     The coordinating entity shall be selected through a competitive request  
5 for proposal or by sole source contract.

6           (d)     The Project shall require the coordinating entity to determine the number  
7 and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in the  
8 following jurisdictions:

9                   (1)     Anne Arundel County;

10                   (2)     Baltimore City; and

11                   (3)     Wicomico County.

12           (e)     (1)     To determine the number of unaccompanied homeless youth and  
13 young adults in each jurisdiction, the coordinating entity shall:

14                           (i)     utilize data on the number of homeless students in public  
15 schools reported under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

16                           (ii)     conduct a street count of unaccompanied homeless youth  
17 and young adults;

18                           (iii)    survey service providers; and

19                           (iv)    conduct qualitative data collection, including conducting:

20                                   1.     surveys;

21                                   2.     focus groups; and

22                                   3.     in–depth interviews.

23           (2)     The coordinating entity shall work with local jurisdictions to tailor  
24 data collection methodology used under paragraph (1) of this subsection, as  
25 appropriate.

26           (3)     Any survey conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
27 include a uniform set of questions but may include additional questions if the  
28 additional questions are agreed on by the local jurisdictions and the coordinating  
29 entity.

1           (4)    The methods of data collection described under paragraph (1) of  
2 this subsection shall employ promising practices, including those identified through  
3 the federal Youth Count! Pilot Project, including:

4                   (i)    employing youth outreach workers;

5                   (ii)   using magnet events; and

6                   (iii)   providing stipends to encourage participation.

7           (5)    Data collection conducted under this subsection shall be conducted  
8 to coincide with the end of the K–12 school year and the reporting of data under the  
9 federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

10           (6)    To protect the anonymity of youth participants, the coordinating  
11 entity shall assign each youth participant a unique identifier that does not reveal the  
12 participant’s identity.

13           (f)    The Department shall make every effort to identify non–State sources of  
14 funding to fund the cost of the Project, including:

15                   (1)    applying for federal or university grants; and

16                   (2)    partnering with private entities to share the cost.

17           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of  
19 September 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
20 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.