

# SENATE BILL 794

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By: **Senator Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

(b) The purpose of the Project is to:

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

(1) Anne Arundel County;

(2) Baltimore City; and

(3) Wicomico County.

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

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

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

(iii) survey service providers; and

(iv) conduct qualitative data collection, including conducting:

1. surveys;

2. focus groups; and

3. in–depth interviews.

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

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

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

- (i) employing youth outreach workers;
- (ii) using magnet events; and
- (iii) providing stipends to encourage participation.

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

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

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

- (1) applying for federal or university grants; and
- (2) partnering with private entities to share the cost.

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