

HOUSE BILL 444

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By: Delegates B. Robinson, Anderson, Aumann, Carter, Chang, Frush, Glenn, Gutierrez, Haynes, Impallaria, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Sample-Hughes, Tarlau, Vallario, Vaughn, Waldstreicher, A. Washington, West, and B. Wilson

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Homeless Expenditures Accountability Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each State, local, and nonprofit agency that receives federal,
4 State, or local funding to remedy and prevent homelessness to report certain
5 information annually to the Interagency Council on Homelessness; requiring each
6 county to report certain information annually to the Council; requiring the first
7 reports to be filed on or before a certain date for a certain fiscal year; and generally
8 relating to reporting to the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Human Services
11 Section 6–418 and 6–423
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Human Services
16 Section 6–423.1
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Human Services**

22 6–418.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 There is an Interagency Council on Homelessness.

2 6-423.

3 The Council shall:

4 (1) coordinate State policy and working relationships among State, local,
5 and nonprofit agencies concerning efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness;

6 (2) coordinate data sharing between local Continuums of Care;

7 (3) coordinate outreach to each Continuum of Care to develop joint
8 strategies that impact State and federal funding efforts to remedy and prevent
9 homelessness;

10 (4) determine comprehensive and effective collaborative strategies and
11 best practices for remediation and prevention of homelessness in the State, in particular
12 addressing the differing needs of the State's geographic areas;

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

16 (6) recommend changes necessary to alleviate or prevent homelessness,
17 including making recommendations annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with
18 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and appropriate State agencies and
19 organizations regarding effective policies, effective distribution of resources, and access to
20 available services and programs;

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

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

25 (9) solicit input from the advocacy community, the business community,
26 the faith community, and consumers regarding policy and program development.

27 **6-423.1.**

28 **(A) EACH STATE, LOCAL, AND NONPROFIT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES**
29 **FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL FUNDING TO REMEDY AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS**
30 **IN THE STATE SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ANNUALLY TO THE**
31 **COUNCIL:**

1 **(1) THE NUMBER OF SHELTER BEDS THE AGENCY MADE AVAILABLE**
2 **TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND THE NUMBER OF VACANT BEDS, IF ANY;**

3 **(2) THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THE**
4 **AGENCY, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME CLIENTS; AND**

5 **(3) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY TO**
6 **PROVIDE HOUSING AND SERVICES TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS.**

7 **(B) EACH COUNTY SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**
8 **ANNUALLY TO THE COUNCIL:**

9 **(1) THE NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS IN THE COUNTY;**

10 **(2) THE NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS ADDED DURING**
11 **THE REPORTING PERIOD;**

12 **(3) THE NUMBER OF HOUSING VOUCHERS ISSUED, INCLUDING**
13 **TENANT-BASED AND PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS; AND**

14 **(4) THE NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTY THAT**
15 **RECEIVED LOCAL FUNDING TO PROVIDE DIRECT HOUSING TO HOMELESS**
16 **INDIVIDUALS AND THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING DISTRIBUTED TO EACH**
17 **ORGANIZATION.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That each State, local, and
19 nonprofit agency and each county required to report to the Interagency Council on
20 Homelessness under Section 1 of this Act shall file its first report on or before December
21 31, 2015, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2015.