

HOUSE BILL 852

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By: **Delegates Carter, Aumann, Brooks, Conaway, Glass, Glenn, Gutierrez, Haynes, Impallaria, Jacobs, Lierman, McCray, Oaks, Pena–Melnik, Rey, B. Robinson, Shoemaker, Valentino–Smith, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Human Resources – Homeless Shelters – Safety and Security Measures

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; and generally relating to safety and security measures to be adopted by shelters for homeless individuals.

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;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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.

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.