

HOUSE BILL 1467

01, C8

6lr1769

By: **Delegate Krimm**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Resources – Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program in the
4 Department of Human Resources; providing for the purpose of the Program;
5 specifying the duties of housing counselors and aftercare case managers under the
6 Program; authorizing each county to apply to the Department for a grant to
7 administer the Program in that county; requiring the Department to provide a
8 certain grant to a certain county under certain circumstances; requiring a county to
9 provide certain funds for a certain purpose; specifying the use of grants under the
10 Program; providing that certain funds shall be as provided in the State budget;
11 requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to adopt certain regulations; defining
12 certain terms; and generally relating to the Housing Counselor and Aftercare
13 Program in the Department of Human Resources.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Human Services

16 Section 6–441 and 6–442 to be under the new part “Part V. Housing Counselor and
17 Aftercare Program”

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Human Services**

23 **6–439. RESERVED.**

24 **6–440. RESERVED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **PART V. HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.**

2 **6-441.**

3 **(A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
4 **INDICATED.**

5 **(B) “CLIENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY WHO IS HOMELESS OR IS**
6 **EXPERIENCING, OR IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF EXPERIENCING, A HOUSING CRISIS.**

7 **(C) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 **6-442.**

10 **(A) THERE IS A HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM IN THE**
11 **DEPARTMENT.**

12 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST CLIENTS IN OBTAINING**
13 **AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

14 **(C) HOUSING COUNSELORS IN THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST CLIENTS WITH**
15 **SECURING HOUSING BY:**

16 **(1) DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, UPDATED LIST OF HOUSING**
17 **RESOURCES;**

18 **(2) ASSISTING IN SEARCHING FOR AND OBTAINING PERMANENT,**
19 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING;**

20 **(3) ESTABLISHING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND ADVOCATING FOR**
21 **CLIENTS WITH LANDLORDS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, REALTY COMPANIES, AND**
22 **OTHER SOURCES OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING;**

23 **(4) WORKING WITH THE CLIENTS’ CASE MANAGER, WHEN NECESSARY,**
24 **TO COORDINATE SERVICES TO THE CLIENT;**

25 **(5) ASSISTING CLIENTS, AS NEEDED, WITH ISSUES THAT CONTRIBUTE**
26 **TO CHRONIC HOUSING PROBLEMS, INCLUDING BUDGETING AND HOUSEHOLD**
27 **MANAGEMENT; AND**

28 **(6) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES AS DESIGNATED BY THE**
29 **DEPARTMENT.**

1 (D) AFTERCARE CASE MANAGERS SHALL HELP CLIENTS MAINTAIN
2 PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY:

3 (1) ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE CLIENTS AND DEVELOPING
4 INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS TO MEET EACH CLIENT'S IDENTIFIED NEEDS;

5 (2) REFERRING THE CLIENTS TO SERVICES BASED ON NEED;

6 (3) MONITORING THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CLIENTS AND
7 INTERVENING WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS IF CLIENTS HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING
8 THE SERVICES;

9 (4) MAINTAINING REGULAR CONTACT WITH EACH CLIENT FOR
10 COUNSELING, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND CRISIS INTERVENTION; AND

11 (5) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES AS DESIGNATED BY THE
12 DEPARTMENT.

13 (E) (1) EACH COUNTY MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A GRANT TO
14 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTY.

15 (2) IF A COUNTY COMPLIES WITH THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS SET
16 BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A GRANT TO THE COUNTY
17 THAT SUBMITS AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN
18 THAT COUNTY.

19 (3) A COUNTY THAT RECEIVES A GRANT SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR
20 ADDITIONAL COSTS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM IN EXCESS OF THE GRANT
21 PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (F) FUNDS PROVIDED THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE PROGRAM MAY BE
23 USED FOR:

24 (1) SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR HOUSING COUNSELORS AND
25 AFTERCARE CASE MANAGERS;

26 (2) CLIENT-RELATED EXPENSES, INCLUDING:

27 (I) FIRST AND LAST MONTHS' RENT;

28 (II) TRANSPORTATION FOR HOUSING SEARCHES;

- 1 **(III) MOVING EXPENSES;**
2 **(IV) ESSENTIAL FURNISHINGS;**
3 **(V) STORAGE;**
4 **(VI) ARREARAGES;**
5 **(VII) CREDIT CHECKS AND HOUSING APPLICATION FEES;**
6 **(VIII) SECURITY DEPOSITS;**
7 **(IX) UTILITY DEPOSITS; AND**
8 **(X) OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS; AND**
9 **(3) OTHER ITEMS AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

10 **(G) FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR COUNTIES TO**
11 **ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

12 **(H) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
13 **SECTION.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2016.