

# SENATE BILL 531

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7lr2723  
CF HB 269

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By: ~~Senator Benson~~ Senators Benson, Astle, Feldman, Hershey, Jennings, Klausmeier, Mathias, Middleton, Oaks, Reilly, and Rosapepe

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program  
4 in the Department of Human Resources to assist families and individuals who are  
5 experiencing, or who are in imminent danger of, a housing crisis in obtaining and  
6 maintaining permanent housing; allowing a family to apply for services if the family  
7 is the recipient of temporary cash assistance or is in the process of applying for  
8 temporary cash assistance; specifying certain activities that a housing ~~counselor~~  
9 navigator shall perform in assisting a family or individual client with securing and  
10 maintaining permanent, affordable housing; specifying certain purposes for which  
11 Program funds may be used; specifying certain client-related expenses; requiring a  
12 local administrative agency to be designated by the Department or a local  
13 government for certain purposes; ~~specifying that the Program be funded by a certain~~  
14 ~~fund~~; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation for the Program in  
15 the annual budget each fiscal year beginning in a certain fiscal year, subject to  
16 certain limitations; ~~altering the purpose of the Foreclosed Property Registry Fund~~;  
17 defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator  
18 and Aftercare Program.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Human Services

21 Section 6–801 through 6–807 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Housing  
22 ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program”

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2007 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article — Real Property  
Section 14-126.1(i)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)~~

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

**Article – Human Services**

**SUBTITLE 8. HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.**

**6-801.**

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~  
NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

**6-802.**

THERE IS A HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM  
IN THE DEPARTMENT.

**6-803.**

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS  
WHO ARE EXPERIENCING, OR WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF, A HOUSING CRISIS  
IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING.

**6-804.**

A FAMILY MAY APPLY FOR HOUSING COUNSELING AND AFTERCARE SERVICES  
IF THE FAMILY IS THE RECIPIENT OF OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR  
TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, AS DEFINED IN § 5-301 OF THIS ARTICLE.

**6-805.**

A HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR SHALL ASSIST A FAMILY OR AN  
INDIVIDUAL CLIENT WITH SECURING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING BY:

(1) ASSISTING THE CLIENT WITH SEARCHING FOR AND OBTAINING  
PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING;

1           **(2) DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, CURRENT LIST OF HOUSING**  
2 **RESOURCES AND EXPANDING THE LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES TO INCLUDE NEW**  
3 **RESOURCES;**

4           **(3) ESTABLISHING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLIENT AND**  
5 **ADVOCATING FOR THE CLIENT WITH LANDLORDS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, REALTY**  
6 **COMPANIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING;**

7           **(4) WORKING WITH A CLIENT'S CASE MANAGER, WHEN APPLICABLE,**  
8 **TO COORDINATE SERVICES TO THE CLIENT;**

9           **(5) ASSISTING THE CLIENT, AS NEEDED, WITH ISSUES THAT**  
10 **CONTRIBUTE TO CHRONIC HOUSING PROBLEMS, SUCH AS BUDGETING AND**  
11 **HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT; AND**

12           **(6) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

13 **6-806.**

14           **(A) PROGRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR:**

15           **(1) SALARY AND FICA FOR HOUSING COUNSELORS AND AFTERCARE**  
16 **CASE MANAGERS;**

17           **(2) CLIENT-RELATED EXPENSES, INCLUDING:**

18                   **(I) FIRST AND FINAL MONTHS' RENT;**

19                   **(II) TRANSPORTATION FOR HOUSING SEARCHES;**

20                   **(III) MOVING EXPENSES;**

21                   **(IV) ESSENTIAL FURNISHINGS;**

22                   **(V) STORAGE;**

23                   **(VI) ARREARAGES;**

24                   **(VII) CREDIT CHECKS AND HOUSING APPLICATION FEES;**

25                   **(VIII) SECURITY DEPOSITS;**

26                   **(IX) UTILITY DEPOSITS; AND**

1 (X) OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS; AND

2 (3) OTHER ITEMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATES.

3 (B) A LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE  
4 DEPARTMENT OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM IN A  
5 PARTICULAR SUBDIVISION, PROVIDE SERVICES, AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR  
6 ADDITIONAL COSTS, INCLUDING OPERATING COSTS, RELATED TO THE PROGRAM.

7 ~~(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE PROGRAM BE~~  
8 ~~FUNDED BY THE FORECLOSED PROPERTY REGISTRY FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT~~  
9 ~~OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION.~~

10 6-807.

11 ~~BEGINNING~~ BEGINNING SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET,  
12 BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
13 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
14 PROGRAM OF \$516,828.

15 ~~Article—Real Property~~

16 ~~14-126.1.~~

17 ~~(i) (1) There is a Foreclosed Property Registry Fund in the Department.~~

18 ~~(2) The purpose of the Fund is to support:~~

19 ~~(i) [the] THE development, administration, and maintenance of the~~  
20 ~~Foreclosed Property Registry established under this section; AND~~

21 ~~(ii) THE HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM~~  
22 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 6, SUBTITLE 8 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE,~~  
23 ~~WHICH ASSISTS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING~~  
24 ~~PERMANENT HOUSING.~~

25 ~~(3) The Department shall administer the Fund.~~

26 ~~(4) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §~~  
27 ~~7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.~~

28 ~~(ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the~~  
29 ~~Comptroller shall account for the Fund.~~

30 ~~(5) The Fund consists of:~~

1                    (i) ~~Revenue distributed to the Fund under subsection (h) of this~~  
2 ~~section;~~

3                    (ii) ~~Investment earnings of the Fund;~~

4                    (iii) ~~Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and~~

5                    (iv) ~~Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit~~  
6 ~~of the Fund.~~

7                    ~~(6) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the~~  
8 ~~same manner as other State money may be invested.~~

9                    (ii) ~~Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.~~

10                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11                   October 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.