

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 955
Appropriations

(Delegate Valentino-Smith, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Department of Housing and Community Development - Crisis Shelter Home
Program for the Homeless

This bill renames the Homeless Women – Crisis Shelter Home Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the Crisis Shelter Home Program for the Homeless and expands its application to all people. The bill also repeals the requirement that residence be limited to 12 continuous weeks or less and a regulatory requirement relating to provider fees. Finally, the bill makes other conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill generally conforms statute to current practice. Repealing the Secretary of Housing and Community Development’s authority to set fees for the program has no effect on State finances as no fees are currently charged, and any fees assessed would be paid to service providers, not the State.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Homeless Women – Crisis Shelter Home Program in DHCD provides crisis shelter homes, meals, and counseling to clients. A shelter home must (1) provide clients with temporary residence of up to 12 continuous weeks and necessary counseling to link clients to appropriate community services; (2) accept, from the police and other referral sources in the community, clients for temporary shelter; and (3) conform to applicable State and local fire codes, health codes, and zoning ordinances. At least

one crisis shelter must be located in a major population center, and they are all subject to regulations adopted by DHCD.

DHCD must adopt regulations to govern the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs to make homelessness rare and, if it occurs, of brief duration. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development must adopt regulations that set fees for services provided by the program.

Background: DHCD's Office of Community Programs oversees efforts to reduce homelessness in the State. DHCD does not provide direct housing placement or emergency support services specifically to homeless individuals; instead, it coordinates with and awards grant funding to local administering agencies and service providers to support various programs.

According to the most recent [report](#) by the Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness, in fiscal 2017:

- approximately 4,973 women and children received shelter;
- more than 183,000 bed nights were provided; and
- 1,565 women moved out to a permanent destination.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2018
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