

HOUSE BILL 1500

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6lr3086

By: **Delegate Carter**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Resources – Homeless Shelters – Safety and Security Measures**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Interagency Council on Homelessness to study issues
4 relating to the safety and security of individuals who stay in certain shelters for
5 homeless individuals and make certain recommendations on measures to be adopted
6 by certain shelters; requiring the Department of Human Resources to include in
7 certain regulations certain measures to be adopted by certain shelters for homeless
8 individuals; and generally relating to safety and security measures to be adopted by
9 shelters for homeless individuals.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Human Services
12 Section 6–423 and 6–424
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Human Services**

18 6–423.

19 The Council shall:

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

7 (5) review and analyze the need for and availability of affordable and
8 accessible housing resources to address the needs of homeless individuals throughout the
9 State;

10 (6) recommend changes necessary to alleviate or prevent homelessness,
11 including making recommendations annually to the General Assembly, in accordance with
12 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, and appropriate State agencies and
13 organizations regarding effective policies, effective distribution of resources, and access to
14 available services and programs;

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

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

19 (9) solicit input from the advocacy community, the business community,
20 the faith community, and consumers regarding policy and program development; [and]

21 (10) determine best practices and models for providing emergency shelter
22 and shelter diversion, including ensuring the health, safety, and security of shelter
23 residents, providing client-centered and trauma-informed support services, and ensuring
24 equal access to protected classes under applicable federal, State, and local civil rights laws;
25 **AND**

26 **(11) STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF**
27 **INDIVIDUALS WHO STAY IN SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND**
28 **RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES THAT**
29 **SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY PROVIDERS OF SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS.**

30 6-424.

31 **(A)** The Department shall adopt regulations to govern the development,
32 implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs to make homelessness rare and,
33 if it occurs, of brief duration.

34 **(B) THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**
35 **SECTION SHALL INCLUDE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS**

1 INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH SAFETY AND SECURITY WHILE
2 STAYING IN A SHELTER, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COUNCIL
3 UNDER § 6-423(11) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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