

HOUSE BILL 269

O1, N1

7lr0835
CF 7lr2723

By: **Delegates Krimm, Brooks, Hettleman, Lierman, McKay, Patterson, and Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program in the
4 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 shall perform in assisting a family or individual client with securing and maintaining
10 permanent, affordable housing; specifying certain purposes for which Program funds
11 may be used; specifying certain client-related expenses; requiring a local
12 administrative agency to be designated by the Department or a local government for
13 certain purposes; specifying that the Program be funded by a certain fund; requiring
14 the Governor to include a certain appropriation for the Program in the annual budget
15 each fiscal year beginning in a certain fiscal year; altering the purpose of the
16 Foreclosed Property Registry Fund; defining a certain term; and generally relating
17 to the Housing Counselor and Aftercare Program.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Human Services

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

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2007 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – Real Property

26 Section 14–126.1(i)

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

28 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Human Services**

4 **SUBTITLE 8. HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.**

5 **6–801.**

6 IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE HOUSING COUNSELOR AND
7 AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

8 **6–802.**

9 THERE IS A HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM IN THE
10 DEPARTMENT.

11 **6–803.**

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

15 **6–804.**

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

19 **6–805.**

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

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

24 (2) DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, CURRENT LIST OF HOUSING
25 RESOURCES AND EXPANDING THE LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES TO INCLUDE NEW
26 RESOURCES;

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

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

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

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

10 **6-806.**

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

12 **(1) SALARY AND FICA FOR HOUSING COUNSELORS AND AFTERCARE**
13 **CASE MANAGERS;**

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

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

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

17 **(III) MOVING EXPENSES;**

18 **(IV) ESSENTIAL FURNISHINGS;**

19 **(V) STORAGE;**

20 **(VI) ARREARAGES;**

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

22 **(VIII) SECURITY DEPOSITS;**

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

24 **(X) OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS; AND**

25 **(3) OTHER ITEMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATES.**

- 1 (ii) Investment earnings of the Fund;
- 2 (iii) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and
- 3 (iv) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
- 4 of the Fund.

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

- 7 (ii) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

9 October 1, 2017.