

Chapter 105

(House Bill 955)

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of altering the scope of and renaming a certain crisis shelter home program in the Department of Housing and Community Development; repealing a certain time limit on the availability of a temporary residence under the Program; repealing a certain regulatory requirement concerning fees for services under the Program; altering certain definitions; and generally relating to the Crisis Shelter Home Program for the Homeless.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Housing and Community Development

Section 4–2201 through 4–2203, 4–2205(a), and 4–2209 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 22. Crisis Shelter Home Program for the Homeless”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Housing and Community Development

Subtitle 22. [Homeless Women –] Crisis Shelter Home Program **FOR THE HOMELESS.**

4–2201.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Client” means [a woman] **AN INDIVIDUAL OR A FAMILY** who is in need of housing and is not eligible for other available housing services.

(c) “Program” means the [Homeless Women –] Crisis Shelter Home Program **FOR THE HOMELESS.**

4–2202.

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) an increasing number of [women] **PEOPLE** in the State are homeless;

- (2) homeless [women] **PEOPLE** have been ignored by State units;
- (3) current State–operated programs do not adequately address the problem; and
- (4) as a result, there is a lack of quality emergency public or private housing available for homeless [women] **PEOPLE**.

4–2203.

(a) There is a [Homeless Women –] Crisis Shelter Home Program **FOR THE HOMELESS** in the Department.

(b) The purpose of the Program is to provide crisis shelter homes, meals, and counseling to clients.

(c) At least one crisis shelter home shall be located in a major population center of the State to facilitate the use of the shelter by clients living in the region surrounding the shelter.

4–2205.

(a) A shelter home:

(1) shall provide clients with a temporary residence [of not more than 12 continuous weeks] and necessary counseling to link clients to appropriate community services to stabilize the clients' living conditions;

(2) shall accept, from the police and other referral sources in the community, clients for temporary shelter;

(3) shall conform to applicable State and local fire codes, health codes, and zoning ordinances; and

(4) is subject to the regulations adopted by the Department.

4–2209.

[(a)] Funds to operate the Program shall be as provided in the State budget.

[(b)] The Secretary shall adopt regulations that set fees for services provided by the Program.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2018.