

HB0911/262511/1

BY: House Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 911
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, before “Unaccompanied” insert “Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness –”; in lines 2 and 3, strike “– Consent to Shelter and Supportive Services”; strike beginning with “providing” in line 4 down through “circumstances” in line 16 and substitute “altering the duties of the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness to include certain duties regarding unaccompanied homeless minors; requiring the Committee to include in a certain annual report certain recommendations related to issues regarding unaccompanied homeless minors”; in line 16, after “defining” insert “a”; in the same line, strike “terms” and substitute “term”; in line 17, after “shelter” insert “and the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness”; and strike in their entirety lines 18 through 23, inclusive, and substitute:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - State Government

Section 2-10A-15

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 23, insert:

“Preamble

WHEREAS, During the 2016–2017 school year, Maryland public schools identified 2,337 unaccompanied homeless students who lacked stable housing, were not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, and were not under the care or custody of a child–serving public agency; and

(Over)

WHEREAS, Unaccompanied homeless minors are a largely invisible and highly vulnerable population that often lacks access to safe shelter options and supportive services designed for youth; and

WHEREAS, Without access to safe shelter options and supportive services designed for youth, unaccompanied homeless minors are at risk for trafficking and other abuse, dropping out of school, juvenile justice involvement, poor mental and physical health outcomes, and other harms; and

WHEREAS, There is a general lack of knowledge about the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless minors and the public and private sector programs and resources that are available to meet those needs, and there is an urgent need to address gaps in those programs and resources; now, therefore,.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 1 through 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 26 on page 1 through line 31 on page 4, inclusive, and substitute:

“Article – State Government

2-10A-15.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINOR” MEANS A MINOR:

(1) WHO IS NOT IN THE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND LACKS A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE; OR

(2) WHOSE STATUS OR CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE A SIGNIFICANT DANGER OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

[(a)] (B) There is a Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness.

[(b)] (C) (1) The Committee consists of 16 members.

(2) Of the 16 members:

(i) eight shall be members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(ii) eight shall be members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

[(c)] (D) (1) The members of the Committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding officer who appointed them.

(2) (i) If a vacancy occurs among the Senators on the Committee, a successor promptly shall be appointed by the President of the Senate.

(ii) If a vacancy occurs among the Delegates on the Committee, a successor promptly shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

[(d)] (E) From among the membership of the Committee, the President of the Senate shall appoint a Senator to serve as the Senate Chair of the Committee, and the Speaker of the House shall appoint a Delegate to serve as the House Chair of the Committee.

[(e)] (F) A majority of the full authorized membership of the Committee is a quorum.

(Over)

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[(f)] (G) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff assistance to the Committee.

[(g)] (H) The Committee shall hold:

(1) an organizational meeting promptly after the appointment of its members; and

(2) any other meetings that the Committee considers necessary to carry out its duties efficiently.

[(h)] (I) The Committee may:

(1) hold a hearing on any matter relating to the functions of the Committee; and

(2) consider a vote on a bill or resolution referred to the Committee by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House.

[(i)] (J) To ensure that public resources, programs, and policies are coordinated and effective in preventing, mitigating the effects of, and ending homelessness in Maryland, the Committee shall:

(1) study issues relating to homelessness, including:

(i) housing;

(ii) income;

(iii) health care;

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(iv) education;

(v) government supports; and

(vi) veterans experiencing homelessness;

(2) consult with governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to identify State policies, programs, and actions that should or could prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland;

(3) review and make recommendations to align State statutes, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities with the State policies and actions described in item (2) of this subsection;

(4) search for any intradepartmental or interdepartmental gaps, inconsistencies, and inefficiencies in the implementation or attainment of the State policies, programs, and actions described in item (2) of this subsection; [and]

(5) identify new laws, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities that are needed to prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland;

(6) (I) COMPILE INFORMATION ON IDENTIFIED UNIQUE NEEDS, IDENTIFY NEW UNIQUE NEEDS, AND STUDY THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS, AND

(II) IDENTIFY THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THOSE NEEDS;

(Over)

(7) IDENTIFY GAPS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS; AND

(8) (I) IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO SAFE SHELTER FOR UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS; AND

(II) COMPILE INFORMATION ON AND STUDY SHELTER PRACTICES IN OTHER STATES.

[(i)] (K) The Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness shall:

(1) cooperate fully with the Committee;

(2) keep the Committee fully informed as to its priorities and progress;

and

(3) submit an annual report, subject to § 2-1246 of this title, to the Committee on or before October 1 of each year that includes:

(i) a description of the Council's work;

(ii) a report on the Council's priorities and progress; and

(iii) recommendations for new laws, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities that are needed to prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland.

[(k)] (L) (1) Subject to § 2-1246 of this title, the Committee shall submit a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1 each year.

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(2) The report shall include:

(i) a description of the work of the Committee; and

(ii) any recommendations of the Committee, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:

1. ANY LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES AND ANY NEW POLICY INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS IN THE STATE; AND

2. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS IN THE STATE.”.