

HOUSE BILL 911

O4, D4

9lr1051
CF SB 930

By: Delegates Krimm, Acevero, Barron, Carr, Hettleman, Jackson, Kipke,
J. Lewis, R. Lewis, McKay, Solomon, and Valentino-Smith

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2019

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness – Unaccompanied Minors in Need of**
3 **Shelter – ~~Consent to Shelter and Supportive Services~~**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~providing that a certain unaccompanied minor in need of shelter has~~
5 ~~the same capacity as an adult to consent to shelter and supportive services;~~
6 ~~authorizing a certain unaccompanied minor in need of shelter to consent to shelter~~
7 ~~and supportive services for a certain child; requiring a certain service provider to~~
8 ~~obtain written consent, including a certain statement, from a certain unaccompanied~~
9 ~~minor in need of shelter before providing shelter and supportive services; prohibiting~~
10 ~~a certain service provider from providing shelter to an unaccompanied minor in need~~
11 ~~of shelter under certain circumstances; requiring a certain service provider to contact~~
12 ~~a certain individual within a certain time period after providing shelter to an~~
13 ~~unaccompanied minor in need of shelter; requiring a certain service provider to~~
14 ~~notify certain authorities of any suspected abuse or neglect in a certain manner;~~
15 ~~providing that a certain service provider is not liable for civil damages or subject to~~
16 ~~certain penalties under certain circumstances~~ altering the duties of the Joint
17 Committee on Ending Homelessness to include certain duties regarding
18 unaccompanied homeless minors; requiring the Committee to include in a certain
19 annual report certain recommendations related to issues regarding unaccompanied
20 homeless minors; defining a certain ~~terms~~ term; and generally relating to
21 unaccompanied minors in need of shelter and the Joint Committee on Ending
22 Homelessness.

23 ~~BY adding to~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~Article – Family Law~~

~~Section 5-1501 through 5-1505 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 15.
Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter”~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 2-10A-15

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

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,

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

~~Article – Family Law~~

~~SUBTITLE 15. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN NEED OF SHELTER.~~

~~5-1501.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

1 ~~(B) (1) "SERVICE PROVIDER" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT~~
2 ~~THAT PROVIDES SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO UNACCOMPANIED~~
3 ~~MINORS IN NEED OF SHELTER.~~

4 ~~(2) "SERVICE PROVIDER" INCLUDES A HOST HOME PROGRAM.~~

5 ~~(C) (1) "SUPPORTIVE SERVICES" MEANS INTERVENTIONS, SERVICES, OR~~
6 ~~RESOURCES NECESSARY TO ASSIST UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN NEED OF SHELTER~~
7 ~~IN ACCESSING AND MAINTAINING HOUSING AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.~~

8 ~~(2) "SUPPORTIVE SERVICES" INCLUDES:~~

9 ~~(I) SERVICES FOR FAMILIES TO SUPPORT REUNIFICATION~~
10 ~~WHERE SAFE AND APPROPRIATE;~~

11 ~~(II) INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND GROUP COUNSELING;~~

12 ~~(III) ASSISTANCE OBTAINING CLOTHING;~~

13 ~~(IV) OUTPATIENT HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AND~~
14 ~~SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES;~~

15 ~~(V) ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY TO ENSURE ACCESS TO~~
16 ~~EDUCATION UNDER THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE ACT;~~

17 ~~(VI) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, JOB TRAINING, AND JOB~~
18 ~~PLACEMENT;~~

19 ~~(VII) TRANSPORTATION;~~

20 ~~(VIII) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES;~~

21 ~~(IX) CASE MANAGEMENT, ADVOCACY, AND REFERRAL SERVICES;~~

22 ~~AND~~

23 ~~(X) INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING.~~

24 ~~(D) "UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER" MEANS A MINOR:~~

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

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

1 ~~5-1502.~~

2 ~~(A) AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER HAS THE SAME~~
3 ~~CAPACITY AS AN ADULT TO CONSENT TO SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.~~

4 ~~(B) AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER WHO IS A PARENT~~
5 ~~MAY CONSENT TO SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THE MINOR'S CHILD.~~

6 ~~5-1503.~~

7 ~~(A) (1) A SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL OBTAIN WRITTEN CONSENT FROM~~
8 ~~AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER BEFORE PROVIDING SHELTER~~
9 ~~AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.~~

10 ~~(2) THE WRITTEN CONSENT SHALL STATE THE UNACCOMPANIED~~
11 ~~MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER'S:~~

12 ~~(I) AGE;~~

13 ~~(II) GUARDIANSHIP STATUS; AND~~

14 ~~(III) LIVING SITUATION.~~

15 ~~(B) A SERVICE PROVIDER MAY NOT PROVIDE SHELTER TO A MINOR IF THE~~
16 ~~SERVICE PROVIDER HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MINOR:~~

17 ~~(1) PROVIDED FALSE INFORMATION IN THE WRITTEN CONSENT~~
18 ~~REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; OR~~

19 ~~(2) DOES NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR~~
20 ~~IN NEED OF SHELTER UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

21 ~~5-1504.~~

22 ~~(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A~~
23 ~~SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL CONTACT A PARENT, A GUARDIAN, OR AN ADULT~~
24 ~~RELATIVE OF AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER AS SOON AS~~
25 ~~POSSIBLE AND WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER PROVIDING SHELTER.~~

26 ~~(2) A SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL CONTACT ANOTHER ADULT~~
27 ~~IDENTIFIED BY THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER AS SOON AS~~
28 ~~POSSIBLE IF:~~

1 ~~(I) THE SERVICE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT IT IS NOT IN~~
2 ~~THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER TO~~
3 ~~CONTACT A PARENT, A GUARDIAN, OR AN ADULT RELATIVE;~~

4 ~~(H) THE SERVICE PROVIDER IS UNABLE TO CONTACT A PARENT,~~
5 ~~A GUARDIAN, OR AN ADULT RELATIVE; OR~~

6 ~~(HH) THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER~~
7 ~~REFUSES TO PROVIDE THE NAME OR CONTACT INFORMATION OF A PARENT, A~~
8 ~~GUARDIAN, OR AN ADULT RELATIVE.~~

9 ~~(3) IF A SERVICE PROVIDER CONTACTS ANOTHER ADULT IDENTIFIED~~
10 ~~BY THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF~~
11 ~~THIS SUBSECTION, THE SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL DOCUMENT THE REASON THE~~
12 ~~SERVICE PROVIDER DID NOT CONTACT A PARENT, A GUARDIAN, OR AN ADULT~~
13 ~~RELATIVE OF THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER.~~

14 ~~(B) A SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES~~
15 ~~OF ANY SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-704 OF THIS~~
16 ~~TITLE.~~

17 ~~5-1505.~~

18 ~~A SERVICE PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES~~
19 ~~TO AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS NOT~~
20 ~~LIABLE FOR CIVIL DAMAGES OR SUBJECT TO ANY CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY~~
21 ~~PENALTY SOLELY BECAUSE THE UNACCOMPANIED MINOR IN NEED OF SHELTER DID~~
22 ~~NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO CONSENT TO THE PROVISION OF SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE~~
23 ~~SERVICES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

24 Article – State Government

25 2-10A-15.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (2) Of the 16 members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (1) study issues relating to homelessness, including:

7 (i) housing;

8 (ii) income;

9 (iii) health care;

10 (iv) education;

11 (v) government supports; and

12 (vi) veterans experiencing homelessness;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (1) cooperate fully with the Committee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) The report shall include:

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

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

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

27 **2. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND BUDGETARY**
 28 **PRIORITIES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS**
 29 **MINORS IN THE STATE.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2019.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.