

Testimony Against HB0487

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB0487.

While I feel for those who for actions outside of their control find themselves homeless, there are others who choose this lifestyle and refuse the help of both state and private sector efforts to get them off the streets. I believe this bill would:

- Allow homeless individuals to live in public spaces or in their vehicles.
- Allow certain homeless individuals to take advantage of the legal rights granted to them that would override the rights of business and home owners
- Remove laws against vagrancy and
- Limits local governments' ability to manage or address homeless individuals in public areas.

We do not want our cities and towns to be like other cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York that are overrun with people who pitch tents or cardboard shelters on our streets, drink and get high, urinate/defecate in public, and aggressively pan-handle the public for money because they know their new "rights" will prevent most actions brought against them such as trespassing, disturbing the peace, and vagrancy.

While something should be done to help the homeless who want to be helped, I believe this is an instance of where the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB0487. Instead, try to craft a bill that addresses the issues of homelessness without removing the deterrence needed to prevent those who do not want to be helped from taking advantage of our attempts to assist them.

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February 12, 2025