



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 292**

February Session, 2010

\* SB00292HS 032310 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS YOUTH.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Homeless youth" means a person under twenty-one years of age  
4 who is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are  
5 available and who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime  
6 residence, including youth under the age of eighteen whose parent or  
7 legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and  
8 appropriate care;

9 (2) "Fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence" means a  
10 dwelling at which a person resides on a regular basis that adequately  
11 provides safe shelter, including (A) a publicly or privately operated  
12 institutional shelter designed to provide temporary living  
13 accommodations; (B) transitional housing; or (C) a temporary  
14 placement with a peer, friend or family member who has not offered a  
15 permanent residence, residential lease or temporary lodging for more  
16 than thirty days; and

17 (3) "Aftercare services" means continued counseling, guidance or  
18 support for not more than six months following the provision of  
19 services.

20 (b) The Department of Children and Families, within available  
21 appropriations, may establish a program that provides public  
22 outreach, shelter and transitional living services for homeless youth  
23 and youth at risk of homelessness. The department may enter into a  
24 contract with nonprofit organizations or municipalities to implement  
25 this section. Such program shall have the following components:

26 (1) A public outreach and drop-in component that provides youth  
27 drop-in centers with walk-in access to crisis intervention and ongoing  
28 supportive services, including one-to-one case management services  
29 on a self-referral basis and public outreach that locates, contacts and  
30 provides information, referrals and services to homeless youth and  
31 youth at risk of homelessness. Such component shall include, but not  
32 be limited to, information, referrals and services for (A) family  
33 reunification services, conflict resolution or mediation counseling; (B)  
34 temporary emergency shelter, case management aimed at obtaining  
35 food, clothing, medical care or mental health counseling, counseling  
36 regarding violence, prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted  
37 diseases, HIV and pregnancy, and referrals to agencies that provide  
38 support services to homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness;  
39 (C) education, employment and independent living skills; (D) aftercare  
40 services; and (E) specialized services for highly vulnerable homeless  
41 youth, including teen parents, sexually-exploited youth and youth  
42 with mental illness or developmental disabilities;

43 (2) An emergency shelter component that provides homeless youth  
44 with referrals and walk-in access to short-term residential care on an  
45 emergency basis that includes voluntary housing, with private shower  
46 facilities, beds and at least one meal each day, and assistance with  
47 reunification with family or a legal guardian when required or  
48 appropriate. Services provided at emergency shelters may include, but  
49 need not be limited to, (A) family reunification services or referral to  
50 safe housing; (B) individual, family and group counseling; (C)  
51 assistance in obtaining clothing; (D) access to medical and dental care  
52 and mental health counseling; (E) education and employment services;  
53 (F) recreational activities; (G) case management, advocacy and referral

54 services; (H) independent living skills training; and (I) aftercare  
55 services and transportation; and

56 (3) A transitional living component that (A) assists homeless youth  
57 in finding and maintaining safe housing, and (B) includes rental  
58 assistance and related supportive services. Such component shall  
59 include, but not be limited to, (i) educational assessment and referral to  
60 educational programs; (ii) career planning, employment, job skills  
61 training and independent living skills training; (iii) job placement; (iv)  
62 budgeting and money management; (v) assistance in securing housing  
63 appropriate to needs and income; (vi) counseling regarding violence,  
64 prostitution, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and  
65 pregnancy, referral for medical services or chemical dependency  
66 treatment; and (vii) parenting skills, self-sufficiency support services or  
67 life skills training and aftercare services.

68 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) A public or private agency  
69 serving children and youth may provide services to a homeless child  
70 or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, unless the parent or guardian  
71 does not consent to such services or withdraws such consent. Such  
72 agency shall make all reasonable efforts to contact the parent or  
73 guardian for consent and shall be immune from liability, civil or  
74 criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided the  
75 agency provided such services in good faith and not negligently.

76 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) On or before February 1,  
77 2012, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Children and  
78 Families, using the format prescribed by the results-based  
79 accountability subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the  
80 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
81 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, shall submit a  
82 results-based accountability report card of the program established  
83 under section 1 of this act, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
84 general statutes, to the select committee of the General Assembly  
85 having cognizance of matters relating to children. The report card shall  
86 include recommendations for any changes to the program to ensure

