



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 292**

February Session, 2010

\* SB00292APP\_\_042010\_\_ \*

**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 shall establish a  
21 program that provides public outreach, shelter and transitional living  
22 services for homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness. The  
23 department may enter into a contract with nonprofit organizations or  
24 municipalities to implement this section. Such program shall have the  
25 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  
 87 that the best available services are being delivered to homeless youth  
 88 and youth at risk of homelessness.

89       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) There is established an account  
 90 to be known as the "homeless youth account" which shall be a  
 91 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account  
 92 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
 93 account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the  
 94 Commissioner of Children and Families for the purpose of establishing  
 95 and administering the program established in section 1 of this act.

96       Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The following sums appropriated  
 97 under section 11 of public act 09-3 of the June special session to the  
 98 Department of Children and Families shall not be used for such  
 99 purposes and shall be transferred to the account established in section  
 100 4 of this act, for the purpose of establishing and operating the program  
 101 established in section 1 of this act, during the fiscal year ending June  
 102 30, 2011: \$400,000 for Emergency Needs and \$600,000 for Board and  
 103 Care for Children - Foster.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**APP**       *Joint Favorable Subst.*