



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 246

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 408

Senate, March 26, 2015

The Committee on Housing reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-62a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

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

10 (2) "Fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence" means a
11 dwelling at which a person resides on a regular basis that adequately
12 provides safe shelter, but does not include (A) a publicly or privately
13 operated institutional shelter designed to provide temporary living

14 accommodations; (B) transitional housing; (C) a temporary placement
15 with a peer, friend or family member who has not offered a permanent
16 residence, residential lease or temporary lodging for more than thirty
17 days; or (D) a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily
18 used as a regular sleeping place by human beings; and

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

22 (b) The Department of [Children and Families] Housing, within
23 available appropriations, shall establish a program that provides one
24 or more of the following services for homeless youth: Public outreach,
25 respite housing, and transitional living services for homeless youth
26 and youth at risk of homelessness. The department may enter into a
27 contract with nonprofit organizations or municipalities to implement
28 this section. Such program may have the following components:

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

46 (2) A respite housing component that provides homeless youth with

47 referrals and walk-in access to respite care on an emergency basis that
48 includes voluntary housing, with private shower facilities, beds and at
49 least one meal each day, and assistance with reunification with family
50 or a legal guardian when required or appropriate. Services provided at
51 respite housing may include, but need not be limited to, (A) family
52 reunification services or referral to safe housing; (B) individual, family
53 and group counseling; (C) assistance in obtaining clothing; (D) access
54 to medical and dental care and mental health counseling; (E) education
55 and employment services; (F) recreational activities; (G) case
56 management, advocacy and referral services; (H) independent living
57 skills training; and (I) aftercare services and transportation; and

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

70 (c) On or before February 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the
71 Commissioner of [Children and Families] Housing shall submit a
72 report regarding the program established under subsection (b) of this
73 section, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
74 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
75 relating to [children] housing. The report shall include
76 recommendations for any changes to the program to ensure that the
77 best available services are being delivered to homeless youth and
78 youth at risk of homelessness. The report shall include key outcome
79 indicators and measures and shall set benchmarks for evaluating
80 progress in accomplishing the purposes of subsection (b) of this

81 section.

82 Sec. 2. Section 8-37r of the general statutes is repealed and the
83 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

84 (a) There shall be a Department of Housing, which shall be within
85 the Department of Economic and Community Development for
86 administrative purposes only, which shall be the lead agency for all
87 matters relating to housing. The department head shall be the
88 Commissioner of Housing, who shall be appointed by the Governor in
89 accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive, with
90 the powers and duties therein prescribed. Said commissioner shall be
91 responsible at the state level for all aspects of policy, development,
92 redevelopment, preservation, maintenance and improvement of
93 housing and neighborhoods. Said commissioner shall be responsible
94 for developing strategies to encourage the provision of housing in the
95 state, including housing for very low, low and moderate income
96 families.

97 (b) The Department of Housing shall constitute a successor to the
98 functions, powers and duties of the Department of Economic
99 Development relating to housing, community development,
100 redevelopment and urban renewal as set forth in chapters 128, 129,
101 130, 135 and 136 in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-
102 38e and 4-39. The Department of Housing is designated a public
103 housing agency for the purpose of administering the Section 8 existing
104 certificate program and the housing voucher program pursuant to the
105 Housing Act of 1937.

106 (c) The commissioner shall, in consultation with the interagency
107 council on affordable housing established pursuant to section 8-37nnn,
108 review the organization and delivery of state housing programs and
109 submit a report with recommendations, in accordance with the
110 provisions of section 11-4a, not later than January 15, 2013, to the joint
111 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
112 matters relating to housing and appropriations.

113 (d) Any order or regulation of the Department of Housing or
 114 Department of Economic and Community Development that is in force
 115 on January 1, 2013, shall continue in force and effect as an order or
 116 regulation until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

117 (e) The Department of Housing shall constitute a successor
 118 department, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e
 119 and 4-39, to the Department of Children and Families with respect to
 120 the homeless youth program as set forth in section 17a-62a, as
 121 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	17a-62a
Sec. 2	October 1, 2015	8-37r

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(e), "as amended by this act" was added after section 17a-62a for clarity.

HSG Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Department of Housing	GF - Cost	\$2.5 million	\$2.5 million
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Savings	\$2.5 million	\$2.5 million

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill transfers the responsibility of administering the state's homeless youth program from the Department of Children and Families to the Department of Housing. The bill does not transfer funding from DCF to DOH for this purpose. There is therefore a cost to DOH and an equal savings to DCF as a result of the bill.

DCF's budget includes \$2.5 million in FY 15 for a third party contractor to administer the homeless youth service program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 408*****AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill transfers, from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Department of Housing (DOH), responsibility for administering the state's homeless youth program. As does the DCF commissioner, the DOH commissioner must (1) run the program within available appropriations and (2) by February 1 annually, submit a report with recommendations for programmatic changes, outcome indicators and measures, and benchmarks for evaluating progress. Under the bill, the commissioner must submit the report to the Housing Committee instead of the Committee on Children.

By law, the program may provide public outreach, respite housing, or transitional living services to youth under age 21 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/11/2015)