



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 408**

LCO No. 4926



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:  
(HSG)

**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 Section 17a-62a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.

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 Purpose:**

To provide the Department of Housing with administrative control over the homeless youth program.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.; REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.  
REP. PORTER, 94th Dist.

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