



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 521

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6269

House of Representatives, April 8, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN OR YOUTHS.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) The Department of
2 Public Health shall collaborate with the Department of Mental Health
3 and Addiction Services to annually (1) identify homeless children or
4 youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time,
5 located in the state who are in need of mental health services, (2) refer
6 such homeless children or youths to such services, and (3) make efforts
7 to ensure that such homeless children or youths receive such services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
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PH Joint Favorable

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 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 50,000	Up to 50,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to identify homeless children and youth in need of mental health services, refer them to services, and make efforts to ensure they receive such services. As the scope of the work resulting from the bill does not fall within any current DPH program area, it will result in consulting costs of up to \$50,000 for DPH to carry out the requirements of the bill.

Since DMHAS and other agencies such as the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Housing are currently collaborating on this issue, the bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to these agencies.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6269*****AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN OR YOUTHS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to annually:

1. identify homeless children or youths in the state who need mental health services,
2. refer them to the services, and
3. make efforts to ensure that they receive the services.

The bill applies a federal definition of homeless children or youth (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Homeless Children or Youth***

A federal public health and welfare statute defines "homeless children and youths," for purposes of certain education programs, as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and meet certain criteria, including:

1. children and youths (a) sharing other people's housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; (b) living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; (c) living in emergency or transitional shelters; (d) abandoned in hospitals;

- or (e) awaiting foster care placement;
- 2. children and youths with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation;
- 3. children and youths living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- 4. migratory children, such as children of migratory agriculture workers or fishers, living in the circumstances described above (42 USC § 11434a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/25/2015)