



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 6555**

LCO No. 3176



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:  
(HSG)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the  
2 Commission on Homelessness within the Legislative Branch to review  
3 existing and proposed housing policies and advise the General  
4 Assembly on (1) strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness; (2) the  
5 coordination of services for individuals and families experiencing  
6 homelessness; (3) the provision of services and support, such as health  
7 care, education and employment training for individuals and families  
8 experiencing homelessness; (4) the provision of emergency shelter and  
9 long-term housing solutions for individuals and families experiencing  
10 homelessness; and (5) the availability and accessibility of affordable  
11 housing in the state.

12 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

13 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
14 who has expertise in homelessness policies and programs;

15 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who

16 has expertise in fair housing protections;

17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
18 Representatives, who represents a homeless service provider;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who  
20 represents a low-income housing advocacy organization;

21 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
22 Representatives, who represents a landlord association;

23 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who  
24 represents a faith-based organization that provides services to  
25 individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

26 (7) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee.

27 (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivision  
28 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a  
29 member of the General Assembly.

30 (d) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not  
31 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Appointed  
32 members of the commission shall serve for three-year terms which  
33 shall commence on the date of appointment and may serve until a  
34 successor is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the respective  
35 appointing authority pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

36 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
37 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the  
38 commission from among the members of the commission. Such  
39 chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which  
40 shall be held not later than October 1, 2023.

41 (f) The commission shall have no authority over staffing or  
42 personnel matters. Any necessary staff shall be employed by the Joint  
43 Committee on Legislative Management, which shall have authority

44 over the hiring, termination and performance review of any staff.

45 (g) The commission shall meet quarterly. Any appointed member  
46 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend  
47 fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be  
48 deemed to have resigned from the commission.

49 (h) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
50 transaction of any business.

51 (i) The members of the commission shall serve without  
52 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be  
53 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of  
54 their duties.

55 (j) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: To  
56 (1) obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other  
57 agency of the state such assistance and data as necessary and available  
58 to carry out the purposes in subsection (a) of this section; (2) accept any  
59 gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties  
60 described in this section; (3) establish bylaws to govern its procedures;  
61 and (4) perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate  
62 to carry out the duties described in subsection (a) of this section.

63 (k) Not later than July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
64 commission shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations  
65 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
66 cognizance of matters relating to housing, in accordance with the  
67 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

68 (l) The commission shall, subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of  
69 the general statutes, employ such employees as may be necessary to  
70 carry out the provisions of this section. The commission may enter into  
71 such contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of  
72 its duties, within the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance  
73 with established procedures.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
-----------	---------------------	-------------

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable*