



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 63

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5332

House of Representatives, March 20, 2024

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. FELIPE of the 130th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL 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 an
2 interagency council on homelessness, to advise and assist the
3 Commissioner of Housing in improving homelessness prevention and
4 response efforts in the state.

5 (b) The council shall consist of the following regular members or their
6 designees: (1) The Commissioner of Housing; (2) the Commissioner of
7 Aging and Disability Services; (3) the Commissioner of Children and
8 Families; (4) the Commissioner of Correction; (5) the Labor
9 Commissioner; (6) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
10 Services; (7) the Commissioner of Social Services; (8) the Commissioner
11 of Veterans Affairs; (9) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
12 Management; (10) the executive director of the Court Support Services
13 Division of the Judicial Department; (11) the executive director of the
14 Office of Health Strategy; and (12) the chief executive officer of the

15 Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

16 (c) In addition to the regular members set forth in subsection (b) of
17 this section, the council may consist of the following ad hoc members,
18 as determined by the chairperson, or such ad hoc members' designees:
19 (1) The Commissioner of Developmental Services; (2) the Commissioner
20 of Economic and Community Development; (3) the Commissioner of
21 Emergency Services and Public Protection; (4) the Commissioner of
22 Public Health; (5) the Commissioner of Early Childhood; (6) the
23 Commissioner of Education; (7) the Commissioner of Transportation;
24 and (8) the executive director of the Office of Higher Education.

25 (d) The chairperson of the council shall be the Commissioner of
26 Housing.

27 (e) The council shall convene on or before October 1, 2024, and shall
28 meet quarterly thereafter, and more often upon the call of the
29 chairperson or a majority of the regular members, to (1) consider
30 methods to strengthen existing programs designed to prevent
31 homelessness by coordinating policies across state agencies, including,
32 but not limited to, policies that improve health and human services for
33 persons experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability for
34 individuals and create more affordable housing in the state; (2) improve
35 the effectiveness of state programs that constitute the homelessness
36 response system, including immediate assistance for persons
37 experiencing homelessness and support for emergency shelters and
38 investments in housing stability for individuals; and (3) meet housing
39 demands in the state by maximizing the use of funding for housing
40 assistance, increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing,
41 improving the effectiveness of rapid rehousing programs and
42 evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and
43 affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to support
44 the needs of individuals in the state.

45 (f) On or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council shall
46 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
47 statutes, a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of

48 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
49 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, housing and human
50 services concerning the recommendations of the council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (c), provisions concerning designees were rewritten for clarity.

HSG *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. The bill codifies the recently established interagency council on homelessness, and its members have the necessary expertise to report recommendations by July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter.¹

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Governor Lamont Announces Formation of the Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness, January 12, 2024 Press Release

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5332*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the interagency council on homelessness in statute (see BACKGROUND) and charges it with advising and assisting the Department of Housing (DOH) commissioner to improve homelessness prevention and response efforts. The council has 12 regular members and up to eight more ad hoc members as determined by the chairperson. The DOH commissioner serves as the council's chairperson. The bill requires the council to meet by October 1, 2024, and then at least quarterly (or more if requested by the DOH commissioner or a majority of the regular members).

The bill requires the council, by July 1, 2025, and then annually, to report its recommendations to the governor and the Appropriations, Housing, and Human Services committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COUNCIL DUTIES

The bill specifically charges the council with doing the following:

1. considering ways to improve existing homelessness programs by coordinating policies across state agencies, including those that improve health and human services for people experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability, and create more affordable housing;
2. improving state programs that make up the homelessness response system, including immediate assistance for people experiencing homelessness and support for emergency shelters

and investments in housing stability; and

3. meeting the state’s housing demands by maximizing funding for housing assistance, increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing, improving rapid rehousing programs, and evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to support the needs of people in the state.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The table below describes the council’s membership under the bill. Both regular and ad hoc members may be designees.

Table: Interagency Council on Homelessness Membership

<i>Regular Members</i>	<i>Optional Ad Hoc Members</i>
DOH commissioner (chairperson)	Department of Developmental Services commissioner
Department of Aging and Disability Services commissioner	Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner
Department of Children and Families commissioner	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner
Department of Correction commissioner	Department of Public Health commissioner
Department of Labor commissioner	Office of Early Childhood commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner	State Department of Education commissioner
Department of Social Services commissioner	Department of Transportation commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs commissioner	Office of Higher Education executive director
Office of Policy and Management secretary	
Judicial Department Court Support Services Division executive director	
Office of Health Strategy executive director	
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority chief executive officer	

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness

In January 2024, Governor Lamont announced the establishment of

the Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness, with a membership and charge very similar to the council codified under the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/07/2024)