
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)