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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- SUPPORT OF THE HOMELESS

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, P Fogarty, Kettle, Bates, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 40-17-2 and 40-17-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-17  
2 entitled "Support of Homeless" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-17-2. Agency established.** -- (a) There is hereby created a permanent council to be  
4 called the "Interagency Council on Homelessness" consisting of ~~seventeen (17)~~ nineteen (19)  
5 members and ~~one~~ two (2) ex-officio ~~member~~ members:

6 (1) One of whom shall be the chief of the office of housing and community  
7 development, or his or her designee, who shall chair the Interagency Council on Homelessness;

8 (2) One of whom shall be the director of the department of administration, or his or her  
9 designee;

10 (3) One of whom shall be the chair of the housing resources commission, or his or her  
11 designee;

12 (4) One of whom shall be the director of the department of human services, or his or her  
13 designee;

14 (5) One of whom shall be the director of the department of health, or his or her designee;

15 (6) One of whom shall be the director of the department of children, youth, and families,  
16 or his or her designee;

17 (7) One of whom shall be the director of elderly affairs, or his or her designee;

18 (8) One of whom shall be the director of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
19 disabilities and hospitals, or his or her designee;

1 (9) One of whom shall be director of the department of labor and training, or his or her  
2 designee;

3 (10) One of whom shall be the director of the department of corrections, or his or her  
4 designee;

5 (11) One of whom shall be the commissioner of the department of elementary or  
6 secondary education, or his or her designee;

7 (12) One of whom shall be the director of the Rhode Island housing and mortgage  
8 finance corporation, or his or her designee;

9 (13) One of whom shall be the director of emergency management agency, or his or her  
10 designee;

11 (14) One of whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island division/department  
12 of veterans' affairs or his or her designee;

13 (15) One of whom shall be the public defender, or his or her designee;

14 (16) One of whom shall be the Medicaid director within the department of human  
15 services, or his or her designee; ~~and~~

16 (17) One of whom shall be the secretary of the executive office of health and human  
17 services, or his or her designee; ~~and~~

18 (18) One of whom shall be the executive director of the economic development  
19 corporation, or his or her designee;

20 (19) One of whom shall be the Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee;

21 (20) One of whom shall be an exofficio member who shall be from the Providence  
22 Veterans Administration Medical Center who specializes in health care for homeless veterans;  
23 and

24 ~~(18)~~(21) One of whom shall be an ex-officio member who shall be the chair, or his or her  
25 designee, of the Interagency Council on Homelessness Advisory Council as described in this  
26 chapter herein.

27 (b) Forthwith upon the effective date of this chapter, the members of the commission  
28 shall meet at the call of the chair and organize. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in like  
29 manner as the original appointment.

30 (c) The department of administration is hereby directed to provide suitable quarters and  
31 staff for the commission.

32 (d) All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
33 documentary, and otherwise to the commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable  
34 by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.

1           **40-17-5. Advisory council established.** -- (a) There is hereby created a permanent  
2 advisory council to the Interagency Council on Homelessness containing ~~equal~~ representation of  
3 advocates, service providers, members of the veteran community including housing providers and  
4 a current or former homeless veteran, current and/or former members of the homeless  
5 community, as well as representatives specifically affiliated with youth homelessness ~~to be~~  
6 ~~appointed by the governor.~~ All new members shall be chosen and approved by majority vote of  
7 the members present at an official meeting. At no time shall there be less than three (3)  
8 representatives of the homeless community, current or former. The chair shall be elected by a  
9 majority of the members.

10           (b) The purpose of the council is to inform the Interagency Council on Homelessness on  
11 the current status and issues facing the homeless throughout Rhode Island.

12           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
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1           This act would add three (3) additional members to the interagency council on  
2 homelessness, and would require that all new members be chosen and approved by a majority of  
3 the members present at an official meeting. The act would also require that there be at least three  
4 (3) representatives of the homeless community chosen and present at official meetings.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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