

**52:27D-287.5 & 52:27D-287.6**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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**LAWS OF:** 2019                      **CHAPTER:** 73

**NJSA:** 52:27D-287.5 & 52:27D-287.6 (Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3 million to DCA.)

**BILL NO:** S3585                      (Substituted for A5204)

**SPONSOR(S)** Stephen M. Sweeney and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 3/7/2019

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** 3/25/2019

**SENATE:** 3/25/2019

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 4/30/2019

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First Reprint enacted)                      Yes

**S3585**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 12 of introduced bill)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**A5204**

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 12 of introduced bill)                      Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

(continued)

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

After drawing criticism for veto, Gov. Phil Murphy expands aid to New Jersey homeless  
northjersey.com (Published as northjersey.com (NJ)) - April 30, 2019

MONTHS AFTER VETO, MURPHY SIGNS HOMELESS AID BILL  
Record, The (Hackensack, NJ) - May 1, 2019

Murphy signs compromise housing-aid bill  
Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ) - May 1, 2019

New Jersey enacts pair of laws aimed at helping the homeless  
Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - May 5, 2019

**NOTE:** Governor Murphy had vetoed Senate bill no. 1965.

In flurry of action, Gov. Phil Murphy rejects homeless aid bill, OKs bus safety, sex ed  
northjersey.com, January 31, 2019

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE BILL GETS REJECTED BY MURPHY  
Record, The (Hackensack, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Murphy vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Gov. vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ) - February 1, 2019

Gov. vetoes bill for emergency aid to homeless  
The Star Ledger, February 1, 2019

RWH/JA

§§1,2 -  
C.52:27D-287.5 &  
52:27D-287.6  
§12 - Approp.

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 73, *approved April 30, 2019*  
Senate, No. 3585 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing an Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
2 Department of Community Affairs, supplementing Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes, amending various parts of the statutory law,  
4 and making an appropriation.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8  
9 1. (New section) a. There is hereby established within the  
10 Department of Community Affairs an Office of Homelessness  
11 Prevention to coordinate among State and local agencies and private  
12 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or  
13 at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to  
14 address homelessness.

15 b. The office shall be under the immediate supervision of a  
16 director, who shall be a person qualified by training and experience  
17 to direct the work of such office. The Commissioner of Community  
18 Affairs shall appoint the director, who shall serve at the pleasure of  
19 the commissioner. The director shall administer the work of the  
20 office under the direction of the commissioner and shall perform  
21 such other functions of the department as the commissioner may  
22 prescribe.

23 c. In addition to other functions, powers, and duties vested in  
24 the Department of Community Affairs by P.L. , c. (C. )  
25 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) or by any other law, the  
26 Department of Community Affairs shall, through the Office of  
27 Homelessness Prevention:

28 (1) Collect, maintain, and make available information  
29 concerning persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness,  
30 including demographics information, current services and resources  
31 available, the cost and availability of services and programs, and the  
32 met and unmet needs of this population. All entities that receive  
33 State, county, or municipal funding shall provide the office access  
34 to all data they maintain;

35 (2) Evaluate State and local services and resources and develop,  
36 implement, and revise, as necessary, a consolidated plan for

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted March 18, 2019.

1 addressing the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk for  
2 homelessness;

3 (3) Explore, compile, and disseminate information regarding  
4 public and private funding sources for State and local programs  
5 serving persons who are homeless;

6 (4) Assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the  
7 activities of State programs, including multi-State programs, and  
8 local coalitions for persons who are homeless and promote the  
9 effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of persons who are  
10 homeless;

11 (5) Convene meetings and workshops of State and local  
12 agencies, local coalitions and programs, and other stakeholders for  
13 developing and reviewing policies, services, activities,  
14 coordination, and funding of efforts to meet the needs of persons  
15 who are homeless, including training, counseling, and navigation  
16 services essential to enable persons who are homeless to make the  
17 transition to permanent housing; and

18 (6) Conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of  
19 programs addressing the needs of persons who are homeless.

20 d. All State, county, and municipal departments and agencies  
21 shall, upon request, make every reasonable effort to assist the  
22 Office of Homelessness Prevention in carrying out the office's  
23 functions, powers, and duties.

24 e. (1) On the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
25 before the Legislature as this bill), the Office of Homelessness  
26 Prevention shall have access to all information in the Homeless  
27 Management Information System administered in the New Jersey  
28 Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

29 (2) The Homeless Management Information System,  
30 administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance  
31 Agency, including any personnel charged with administering and  
32 maintaining the Homeless Management Information System, may  
33 be transferred to the Office of Homelessness Prevention. If the  
34 Homeless Management Information System is transferred pursuant  
35 to this paragraph, all appropriations, grants, and other moneys  
36 available and to become available to the New Jersey Housing and  
37 Mortgage Finance Agency, which the agency uses for the  
38 maintenance and administration of the Homeless Management  
39 Information System, shall be transferred to the Office of  
40 Homelessness Prevention.

41

42 2. (New section) a. The Legislature finds and declares that it is in  
43 the public interest for State policymakers, providers of services to  
44 people who are homeless, advocacy organizations, and other  
45 concerned representatives of the public to engage in an intensive  
46 collaborative effort to seek to devise more effective means of  
47 coordinating <sup>1</sup>**[and]** among various State and local initiatives that  
48 provide assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of being

1 homeless; to identify public and private sources of<sup>1</sup> funding <sup>1</sup>for<sup>1</sup>  
2 programs to meet the needs of persons within New Jersey who are  
3 homeless or at risk for homelessness <sup>1</sup>; and to develop more permanent  
4 housing solutions for this population<sup>1</sup>.

5 b. There is established the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention  
6 Task Force.” The purpose of the task force shall be to serve as an  
7 advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
8 Department of Community Affairs, to develop recommendations,  
9 through an intensive collaborative effort among representatives of  
10 State government, providers of services to the homeless, advocacy  
11 organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public, and  
12 to develop, promote, and support efforts for the most effective means  
13 of coordinating <sup>1</sup>**[and]** among various State and local initiatives that  
14 provide assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of being  
15 homeless; to identify public and private sources of<sup>1</sup> funding <sup>1</sup>for<sup>1</sup>  
16 programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who  
17 are homeless or at risk for homelessness <sup>1</sup>; and to develop more  
18 permanent housing solutions for this population<sup>1</sup>.

19 c. The task force shall consist of 15 members including the  
20 Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department  
21 of Community Affairs, or the director’s designee, <sup>1</sup>the Director of the  
22 Division of Family Development in the Department of Human  
23 Services, or the director’s designee,<sup>1</sup> and <sup>1</sup>**[fourteen]** 13<sup>1</sup> members,  
24 who shall be appointed by the Governor no later than the 60th day  
25 after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
26 Legislature as this bill), and who may be government officials or  
27 members of the public with a demonstrated expertise in issues relating  
28 to the work of the task force.

29 d. The Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, or the  
30 director’s designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force. The  
31 task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
32 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from  
33 among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who  
34 need not be a member of the task force.

35 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
36 shall be reimbursed for necessary <sup>1</sup>travel<sup>1</sup> expenses incurred in the  
37 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available to  
38 the task force.

39 f. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
40 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or  
41 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may  
42 require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

43 g. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it  
44 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

45 h. The Department of Community Affairs shall provide staff  
46 support to the task force.

1 i. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in  
2 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

3

4 3. Section 4 of P.L.1999, c.224 (C.9:12A-5) is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
7 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
8 organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, that provide  
9 street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living services  
10 for homeless youth. The department shall establish licensure  
11 requirements and shall contract for programs that ensure that  
12 services, as specified by this act, are provided to homeless youth in  
13 the State in an appropriate and responsible manner. The  
14 commissioner may establish such other requirements for the  
15 homeless youth programs as he deems necessary. On or before  
16 December 31 of each year, the department shall provide to the  
17 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of  
18 Community Affairs a list of organizations and agencies  
19 participating in the program and any available information in the  
20 possession of the department concerning persons who are homeless  
21 or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any applicable  
22 privacy, security, and data quality standards.

23 (cf: P.L.1999, s.224, s.4)

24

25 4. N.J.S.18A:38-1 is amended to read as follows:

26 18A:38-1. Public schools shall be free to the following persons  
27 over five and under 20 years of age:

28 a. Any person who is domiciled within the school district;

29 b. (1) Any person who is kept in the home of another person  
30 domiciled within the school district and is supported by such other  
31 person gratis as if he were such other person's own child, upon  
32 filing by such other person with the secretary of the board of  
33 education of the district, if so required by the board, a sworn  
34 statement that he is domiciled within the district and is supporting  
35 the child gratis and will assume all personal obligations for the  
36 child relative to school requirements and that he intends so to keep  
37 and support the child gratuitously for a longer time than merely  
38 through the school term, and a copy of his lease if a tenant, or a  
39 sworn statement by his landlord acknowledging his tenancy if  
40 residing as a tenant without a written lease, and upon filing by the  
41 child's parent or guardian with the secretary of the board of  
42 education a sworn statement that he is not capable of supporting or  
43 providing care for the child due to a family or economic hardship  
44 and that the child is not residing with the resident of the district  
45 solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education within  
46 the district. The statement shall be accompanied by documentation  
47 to support the validity of the sworn statements, information from or  
48 about which shall be supplied only to the board and only to the

1 extent that it directly pertains to the support or nonsupport of the  
2 child. If in the judgment of the board of education the evidence  
3 does not support the validity of the claim by the resident, the board  
4 may deny admission to the child. The resident may contest the  
5 board's decision to the commissioner within 21 days of the date of  
6 the decision and shall be entitled to an expedited hearing before the  
7 commissioner on the validity of the claim and shall have the burden  
8 of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is eligible  
9 for a free education under the criteria listed in this subsection. The  
10 board of education shall, at the time of its decision, notify the  
11 resident in writing of his right to contest the board's decision to the  
12 commissioner within 21 days. No child shall be denied admission  
13 during the pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner.  
14 In the event the child is currently enrolled in the district, the student  
15 shall not be removed from school during the 21-day period in which  
16 the resident may contest the board's decision nor during the  
17 pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner. If in the  
18 judgment of the commissioner the evidence does not support the  
19 claim of the resident, he shall assess the resident tuition for the  
20 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
21 the school district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis of 1/180  
22 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district multiplied by  
23 the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall be collected in  
24 the manner in which orders of the commissioner are enforced.  
25 Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition from the  
26 resident, parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
27 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
28 appealed to the commissioner;

29 (2) If the superintendent or administrative principal of a school  
30 district finds that the parent or guardian of a child who is attending  
31 the schools of the district is not domiciled within the district and the  
32 child is not kept in the home of another person domiciled within the  
33 school district and supported by him gratis as if the child was the  
34 person's own child as provided for in paragraph (1) of this  
35 subsection, the superintendent or administrative principal may  
36 apply to the board of education for the removal of the child. The  
37 parent or guardian shall be entitled to a hearing before the board  
38 and if in the judgment of the board the parent or guardian is not  
39 domiciled within the district or the child is not kept in the home of  
40 another person domiciled within the school district and supported  
41 by him gratis as if the child was the person's own child as provided  
42 for in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the board may order the  
43 transfer or removal of the child from school. The parent or  
44 guardian may contest the board's decision before the commissioner  
45 within 21 days of the date of the decision and shall be entitled to an  
46 expedited hearing before the commissioner and shall have the  
47 burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is  
48 eligible for a free education under the criteria listed in this

1 subsection. The board of education shall, at the time of its decision,  
2 notify the parent or guardian in writing of his right to contest the  
3 decision within 21 days. No child shall be removed from school  
4 during the 21-day period in which the parent may contest the  
5 board's decision or during the pendency of the proceedings before  
6 the commissioner. If in the judgment of the commissioner the  
7 evidence does not support the claim of the parent or guardian, the  
8 commissioner shall assess the parent or guardian tuition for the  
9 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
10 the schools of the district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis  
11 of 1/180 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district  
12 multiplied by the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall  
13 be collected in the manner in which orders of the commissioner are  
14 enforced. Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition  
15 from the parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
16 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
17 appealed to the commissioner;

18 The provisions of this section requiring proof of support, custody  
19 or tenancy shall not apply to a person keeping a child in his home  
20 whose parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National  
21 Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of  
22 the United States and who has been ordered into active military  
23 service in any of the armed forces of the United States in time of  
24 war or national emergency. In such a situation, the child shall be  
25 eligible to enroll in the district in which he is being kept, and no  
26 tuition shall be charged by the district. Following the return of the  
27 child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's  
28 eligibility for enrollment without tuition in the district in which he  
29 or she is being kept shall cease at the end of the current school year;

30 c. Any person who fraudulently allows a child of another  
31 person to use his residence and is not the primary financial  
32 supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to  
33 have given up custody of his child to a person in another district  
34 commits a disorderly persons offense;

35 d. Any person whose parent or guardian, even though not  
36 domiciled within the district, is residing temporarily therein, but  
37 any person who has had or shall have his all-year-round dwelling  
38 place within the district for one year or longer shall be deemed to be  
39 domiciled within the district for the purposes of this section;

40 e. Any person for whom the Division of Youth and Family  
41 Services in the Department of Children and Families is acting as  
42 guardian and who is placed in the district by the division;

43 f. Any person whose parent or guardian moves from one  
44 school district to another school district as a result of being  
45 homeless and whose district of residence is determined pursuant to  
46 section 19 of P.L.1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12). On or before  
47 December 31 of each year, a public school shall report to the Office  
48 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community



1 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the public school is  
2 made aware that a student enrolled in the public school because the  
3 student's parent or guardian moved from one school district to  
4 another school district as a result of being homeless.

5 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.94)

6  
7 5. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

8 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

9 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,  
10 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate  
11 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for  
12 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

13 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without  
14 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,  
15 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death  
16 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;  
17 and

18 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of  
19 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the  
20 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval  
21 enlistment purposes; and

22 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by  
23 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New  
24 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a  
25 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic  
26 partnership certificate; and

27 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a  
28 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the  
29 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family  
30 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant  
31 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a  
32 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to  
33 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be  
34 subject to the statutory fee; and

35 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a person who is  
36 homeless [person] a certified copy of the person's birth certificate,  
37 provided that the person submits the request through a social  
38 worker or the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless  
39 where the person is temporarily residing. The request shall be  
40 transmitted on the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include  
41 the shelter's employer identification number and an attestation by  
42 the coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
43 homeless and residing at the shelter or the request shall be  
44 submitted on the social worker's agency or professional practice  
45 letterhead and shall include the agency's or the professional  
46 practice's employer identification number and an attestation by the  
47 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
48 homeless. A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant

1 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the social worker or  
2 coordinator who transmitted the request. No more than one  
3 certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a person who is  
4 homeless **【person】** pursuant to this subsection shall be provided  
5 without fee; all other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject  
6 to the statutory fee. On or before December 31 of each year, the  
7 State Registrar shall report to the Office of Homelessness  
8 Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting  
9 of each instance in which the State Registrar furnished without fee a  
10 certified copy of a person's birth certificate pursuant to this  
11 subsection.

12 As used in this section:

13 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,  
14 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that  
15 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a  
16 certificate or transcript; and

17 "Person who is homeless **【person】**" means a person without a  
18 domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as  
19 determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency  
20 shelter for the homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48  
21 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
22 (cf: P.L.2016, c.98, s.1)

23  
24 6. Section 6 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.7) is amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 6. a. The chief administrator shall charge fees as follows:

27 Identification Card, Original \$18

28 Identification Card, Duplicate \$5

29 Identification Card, Renewal \$18

30 Digitized picture \$6, in addition to the fees required above.

31 b. The chief administrator may waive the fees established  
32 under subsection a. of this section for a person who is homeless  
33 **【person】** who submits proof of temporary residence through a  
34 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for the  
35 homeless where the person is temporarily residing. On or before  
36 December 31 of each year, the commission shall report to the Office  
37 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community  
38 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the commission  
39 provided a fee waiver pursuant to this section. For the purposes of  
40 this section, "person who is homeless **【person】**" means a person  
41 without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable  
42 housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an  
43 emergency shelter for the homeless established pursuant to  
44 P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
45 (cf: P.L.2016, c.99, s.1)

46  
47 7. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.56 (C.40:5-2.10b) is amended to  
48 read as follows:

1       1. The governing body of a county or municipality annually  
2 may appropriate funds to a private, nonprofit organization for the  
3 purpose of providing services to runaway or homeless youths and  
4 their families. The services may include temporary shelter, food,  
5 clothing, medical care, transportation, individual and family  
6 counseling, and any other service necessary to provide adequate  
7 temporary, protective care for runaway or homeless youths, or to  
8 aid in reuniting the youths with their parents or guardians. On or  
9 before December 31 of each year, the governing body of a  
10 municipality shall provide to the Office of Homelessness Prevention  
11 in the Department of Community Affairs a list of nonprofit  
12 organizations to which the governing body appropriated funds  
13 pursuant to this section and any available information in the  
14 possession of the governing body concerning persons who are  
15 homeless or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any  
16 applicable privacy, security, and data quality standards. For the  
17 purposes of this section, "runaway or homeless youth" means a  
18 person under the age of 18, who is absent from his legal residence  
19 without the consent of his parents or legal guardian, or who is  
20 without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available.  
21 (cf: P.L.1982, c.56, s.1)

22  
23       8. Section 3 of P.L.1988, c.29 (C.52:27C-24.1) is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25       3. a. The Commissioner of the Department of Community  
26 Affairs shall establish within the Division of Housing and  
27 **【Development】** Community Resources a fund for the purpose of  
28 funding programs to assist persons who are homeless pursuant to  
29 subsections f. and h. of section 24 of P.L.1944, c.85 (C.52:27C-24).

30       b. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated thereto by  
31 section 4 of P.L.1988, c.29 and such other moneys as may be  
32 appropriated or otherwise made available for that purpose.

33       c. Not more than 5% of moneys paid into the fund during any  
34 fiscal year of the State may be used to pay the costs of the fund's  
35 administration by the Department of Community Affairs during that  
36 fiscal year.

37       d. Upon the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
38 before the Legislature as this bill), the fund created pursuant to  
39 subsection a. of this section may be transferred from the Division of  
40 Housing and Community Resources to the Office of Homelessness  
41 Prevention.

42 (cf: P.L.1988, c.29, s.3)

43  
44       9. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287d) is amended to  
45 read as follows:

46       4. A local government, in consultation with the Office of  
47 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs,  
48 may adopt a homeless housing plan to address the housing needs of

1 persons who are homeless within its jurisdiction, which shall be in  
2 accordance with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287a  
3 et al.). The plan shall include provisions for establishing a trust fund  
4 for the purposes of receiving funds pursuant to P.L.2009, c.123  
5 (C.52:27D-287a et al.), and shall evidence a strategic local scheme  
6 to identify and address the needs of **【the】 persons who are** homeless  
7 within the jurisdiction, including strategies to reduce the need for  
8 emergency room care, hospital care, law enforcement, foster care,  
9 and other social services associated with **【the】 persons who are**  
10 homeless and homelessness.

11 (cf: P.L.2009, c.123, s.4)

12

13 10. Section 6 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287f) is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 6. a. Each county shall utilize its County Homelessness Trust  
16 Fund with the advice of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task  
17 Force for the operation of a homeless housing grant program. This  
18 program is established in order to provide:

19 (1) for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing  
20 projects or units within housing projects that supply permanent  
21 affordable housing for persons who are homeless or families,  
22 including those at risk of homelessness;

23 (2) rental assistance vouchers, including tenant and project based  
24 subsidies, for affordable housing projects or units within housing  
25 projects that provide permanent affordable housing for persons who  
26 are homeless or families, including those at risk of homelessness;

27 (3) supportive services as may be required by homeless  
28 individuals or families in order to obtain or maintain, or both,  
29 permanent affordable housing; and

30 (4) prevention services for at risk homeless individuals or  
31 families so that they can obtain and maintain permanent affordable  
32 housing.

33 b. Grants awarded by the governing body of the county shall be  
34 used to support projects that:

35 (1) measurably reduce homelessness;

36 (2) demonstrate government cost savings over time;

37 (3) employ evidence-based models;

38 (4) can be replicated in other counties;

39 (5) include an outcome measurement component;

40 (6) are consistent with the local homeless housing plan; or

41 (7) fund the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation projects  
42 that will serve homeless individuals or families for a period of at  
43 least 30 years or the equal to the longest term of affordability  
44 required by other funding sources.

45 c. Each county that has established a County Homelessness  
46 Trust Fund shall transmit information concerning the uses of the  
47 funds to the **【New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency】**  
48 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of

1 Community Affairs in accordance with requirements established by  
2 that **[agency]** office.

3 d. The governing body of a county may by resolution establish  
4 a preference for veterans that gives first priority, in the distribution  
5 of grants, for the benefit of homeless veterans, including those at  
6 risk of homelessness.

7 (cf: P.L.2017, c.320, s.1)

8

9 11. Section 1 of P.L.2008, c.28 (C.52:27I-8.1) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 1. In addition to the powers granted the authority pursuant to  
12 section 8 of P.L.2006, c.16 (C.52:27I-8), the authority shall have  
13 the power to enter into any legally binding agreements with  
14 representatives of **[the] persons who are** homeless that are  
15 necessary in order to comply with and implement the requirements  
16 of 32 CFR 176.30 and 24 CFR 586.30. On or before December 31  
17 of each year, the authority shall report each agreement entered into  
18 by the authority pursuant to this section to the Office of  
19 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs.

20 (cf: P.L.2008, c.28, s.1)

21

22 12. (New section) There is hereby appropriated from the  
23 General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs the sum of  
24 \$3,000,000 to carry out the purposes of section 1 of  
25 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

26

27 13. This act shall take effect immediately.

28

29

30

31

32 Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3  
33 million to DCA.

# SENATE, No. 3585

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO**

**District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3 million to DCA.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2019)**

S3585 SWEENEY, ADDIEGO

2

1 AN ACT establishing an Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
2 Department of Community Affairs, supplementing Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes, amending various parts of the statutory law,  
4 and making an appropriation.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. (New section) a. There is hereby established within the  
10 Department of Community Affairs an Office of Homelessness  
11 Prevention to coordinate among State and local agencies and private  
12 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or  
13 at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to  
14 address homelessness.

15 b. The office shall be under the immediate supervision of a  
16 director, who shall be a person qualified by training and experience  
17 to direct the work of such office. The Commissioner of Community  
18 Affairs shall appoint the director, who shall serve at the pleasure of  
19 the commissioner. The director shall administer the work of the  
20 office under the direction of the commissioner and shall perform  
21 such other functions of the department as the commissioner may  
22 prescribe.

23 c. In addition to other functions, powers, and duties vested in  
24 the Department of Community Affairs by P.L. , c. (C. )  
25 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) or by any other law, the  
26 Department of Community Affairs shall, through the Office of  
27 Homelessness Prevention:

28 (1) Collect, maintain, and make available information  
29 concerning persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness,  
30 including demographics information, current services and resources  
31 available, the cost and availability of services and programs, and the  
32 met and unmet needs of this population. All entities that receive  
33 State, county, or municipal funding shall provide the office access  
34 to all data they maintain;

35 (2) Evaluate State and local services and resources and develop,  
36 implement, and revise, as necessary, a consolidated plan for  
37 addressing the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk for  
38 homelessness;

39 (3) Explore, compile, and disseminate information regarding  
40 public and private funding sources for State and local programs  
41 serving persons who are homeless;

42 (4) Assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the  
43 activities of State programs, including multi-State programs, and  
44 local coalitions for persons who are homeless and promote the

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of persons who are  
2 homeless;

3 (5) Convene meetings and workshops of State and local  
4 agencies, local coalitions and programs, and other stakeholders for  
5 developing and reviewing policies, services, activities,  
6 coordination, and funding of efforts to meet the needs of persons  
7 who are homeless, including training, counseling, and navigation  
8 services essential to enable persons who are homeless to make the  
9 transition to permanent housing; and

10 (6) Conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of  
11 programs addressing the needs of persons who are homeless.

12 d. All State, county, and municipal departments and agencies  
13 shall, upon request, make every reasonable effort to assist the  
14 Office of Homelessness Prevention in carrying out the office's  
15 functions, powers, and duties.

16 e. (1) On the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
17 before the Legislature as this bill), the Office of Homelessness  
18 Prevention shall have access to all information in the Homeless  
19 Management Information System administered in the New Jersey  
20 Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

21 (2) The Homeless Management Information System,  
22 administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance  
23 Agency, including any personnel charged with administering and  
24 maintaining the Homeless Management Information System, may  
25 be transferred to the Office of Homelessness Prevention. If the  
26 Homeless Management Information System is transferred pursuant  
27 to this paragraph, all appropriations, grants, and other moneys  
28 available and to become available to the New Jersey Housing and  
29 Mortgage Finance Agency, which the agency uses for the  
30 maintenance and administration of the Homeless Management  
31 Information System, shall be transferred to the Office of  
32 Homelessness Prevention.

33

34 2. (New section) a. The Legislature finds and declares that it is  
35 in the public interest for State policymakers, providers of services  
36 to people who are homeless, advocacy organizations, and other  
37 concerned representatives of the public to engage in an intensive  
38 collaborative effort to seek to devise more effective means of  
39 coordinating and funding programs to meet the needs of persons  
40 within New Jersey who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

41 b. There is established the "New Jersey Homelessness  
42 Prevention Task Force." The purpose of the task force shall be to  
43 serve as an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention  
44 in the Department of Community Affairs, to develop  
45 recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among  
46 representatives of State government, providers of services to the  
47 homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned  
48 representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support



1 efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding  
2 programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who  
3 are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

4 c. The task force shall consist of 15 members including the  
5 Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
6 Department of Community Affairs, or the director's designee, and  
7 fourteen members, who shall be appointed by the Governor no later  
8 than the 60th day after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. )  
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and who may be  
10 government officials or members of the public with a demonstrated  
11 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force.

12 d. The Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, or  
13 the director's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force.  
14 The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
15 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from  
16 among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who  
17 need not be a member of the task force.

18 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
19 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
20 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
21 to the task force.

22 f. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
23 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or  
24 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
25 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

26 g. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it  
27 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

28 h. The Department of Community Affairs shall provide staff  
29 support to the task force.

30 i. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
31 in the same manner provided for the original appointments.

32

33 3. Section 4 of P.L.1999, c.224 (C.9:12A-5) is amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
36 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
37 organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, that provide  
38 street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living services  
39 for homeless youth. The department shall establish licensure  
40 requirements and shall contract for programs that ensure that  
41 services, as specified by this act, are provided to homeless youth in  
42 the State in an appropriate and responsible manner. The  
43 commissioner may establish such other requirements for the  
44 homeless youth programs as he deems necessary. On or before  
45 December 31 of each year, the department shall provide to the  
46 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of  
47 Community Affairs a list of organizations and agencies  
48 participating in the program and any available information in the

1 possession of the department concerning persons who are homeless  
2 or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any applicable  
3 privacy, security, and data quality standards.  
4 (cf: P.L.1999, s.224, s.4)

5  
6 4. N.J.S.18A:38-1 is amended to read as follows:

7 18A:38-1. Public schools shall be free to the following persons  
8 over five and under 20 years of age:

9 a. Any person who is domiciled within the school district;

10 b. (1) Any person who is kept in the home of another person  
11 domiciled within the school district and is supported by such other  
12 person gratis as if he were such other person's own child, upon  
13 filing by such other person with the secretary of the board of  
14 education of the district, if so required by the board, a sworn  
15 statement that he is domiciled within the district and is supporting  
16 the child gratis and will assume all personal obligations for the  
17 child relative to school requirements and that he intends so to keep  
18 and support the child gratuitously for a longer time than merely  
19 through the school term, and a copy of his lease if a tenant, or a  
20 sworn statement by his landlord acknowledging his tenancy if  
21 residing as a tenant without a written lease, and upon filing by the  
22 child's parent or guardian with the secretary of the board of  
23 education a sworn statement that he is not capable of supporting or  
24 providing care for the child due to a family or economic hardship  
25 and that the child is not residing with the resident of the district  
26 solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education within  
27 the district. The statement shall be accompanied by documentation  
28 to support the validity of the sworn statements, information from or  
29 about which shall be supplied only to the board and only to the  
30 extent that it directly pertains to the support or nonsupport of the  
31 child. If in the judgment of the board of education the evidence  
32 does not support the validity of the claim by the resident, the board  
33 may deny admission to the child. The resident may contest the  
34 board's decision to the commissioner within 21 days of the date of  
35 the decision and shall be entitled to an expedited hearing before the  
36 commissioner on the validity of the claim and shall have the burden  
37 of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is eligible  
38 for a free education under the criteria listed in this subsection. The  
39 board of education shall, at the time of its decision, notify the  
40 resident in writing of his right to contest the board's decision to the  
41 commissioner within 21 days. No child shall be denied admission  
42 during the pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner.  
43 In the event the child is currently enrolled in the district, the student  
44 shall not be removed from school during the 21-day period in which  
45 the resident may contest the board's decision nor during the  
46 pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner. If in the  
47 judgment of the commissioner the evidence does not support the  
48 claim of the resident, he shall assess the resident tuition for the

1 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
2 the school district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis of 1/180  
3 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district multiplied by  
4 the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall be collected in  
5 the manner in which orders of the commissioner are enforced.  
6 Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition from the  
7 resident, parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
8 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
9 appealed to the commissioner;

10 (2) If the superintendent or administrative principal of a school  
11 district finds that the parent or guardian of a child who is attending  
12 the schools of the district is not domiciled within the district and the  
13 child is not kept in the home of another person domiciled within the  
14 school district and supported by him gratis as if the child was the  
15 person's own child as provided for in paragraph (1) of this  
16 subsection, the superintendent or administrative principal may  
17 apply to the board of education for the removal of the child. The  
18 parent or guardian shall be entitled to a hearing before the board  
19 and if in the judgment of the board the parent or guardian is not  
20 domiciled within the district or the child is not kept in the home of  
21 another person domiciled within the school district and supported  
22 by him gratis as if the child was the person's own child as provided  
23 for in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the board may order the  
24 transfer or removal of the child from school. The parent or  
25 guardian may contest the board's decision before the commissioner  
26 within 21 days of the date of the decision and shall be entitled to an  
27 expedited hearing before the commissioner and shall have the  
28 burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is  
29 eligible for a free education under the criteria listed in this  
30 subsection. The board of education shall, at the time of its decision,  
31 notify the parent or guardian in writing of his right to contest the  
32 decision within 21 days. No child shall be removed from school  
33 during the 21-day period in which the parent may contest the  
34 board's decision or during the pendency of the proceedings before  
35 the commissioner. If in the judgment of the commissioner the  
36 evidence does not support the claim of the parent or guardian, the  
37 commissioner shall assess the parent or guardian tuition for the  
38 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
39 the schools of the district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis  
40 of 1/180 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district  
41 multiplied by the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall  
42 be collected in the manner in which orders of the commissioner are  
43 enforced. Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition  
44 from the parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
45 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
46 appealed to the commissioner;

47 The provisions of this section requiring proof of support, custody  
48 or tenancy shall not apply to a person keeping a child in his home

1 whose parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National  
2 Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of  
3 the United States and who has been ordered into active military  
4 service in any of the armed forces of the United States in time of  
5 war or national emergency. In such a situation, the child shall be  
6 eligible to enroll in the district in which he is being kept, and no  
7 tuition shall be charged by the district. Following the return of the  
8 child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's  
9 eligibility for enrollment without tuition in the district in which he  
10 or she is being kept shall cease at the end of the current school year;

11 c. Any person who fraudulently allows a child of another  
12 person to use his residence and is not the primary financial  
13 supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to  
14 have given up custody of his child to a person in another district  
15 commits a disorderly persons offense;

16 d. Any person whose parent or guardian, even though not  
17 domiciled within the district, is residing temporarily therein, but  
18 any person who has had or shall have his all-year-round dwelling  
19 place within the district for one year or longer shall be deemed to be  
20 domiciled within the district for the purposes of this section;

21 e. Any person for whom the Division of Youth and Family  
22 Services in the Department of Children and Families is acting as  
23 guardian and who is placed in the district by the division;

24 f. Any person whose parent or guardian moves from one  
25 school district to another school district as a result of being  
26 homeless and whose district of residence is determined pursuant to  
27 section 19 of P.L.1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12). On or before  
28 December 31 of each year, a public school shall report to the Office  
29 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community  
30 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the public school is  
31 made aware that a student enrolled in the public school because the  
32 student's parent or guardian moved from one school district to  
33 another school district as a result of being homeless.

34 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.94)

35

36 5. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

37 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

38 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,  
39 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate  
40 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for  
41 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

42 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without  
43 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,  
44 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death  
45 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;  
46 and

47 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of  
48 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the

1 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval  
2 enlistment purposes; and

3 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by  
4 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New  
5 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a  
6 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic  
7 partnership certificate; and

8 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a  
9 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the  
10 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family  
11 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant  
12 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a  
13 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to  
14 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be  
15 subject to the statutory fee; and

16 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a person who is  
17 homeless **[person]** a certified copy of the person's birth certificate,  
18 provided that the person submits the request through a social  
19 worker or the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless  
20 where the person is temporarily residing. The request shall be  
21 transmitted on the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include  
22 the shelter's employer identification number and an attestation by  
23 the coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
24 homeless and residing at the shelter or the request shall be  
25 submitted on the social worker's agency or professional practice  
26 letterhead and shall include the agency's or the professional  
27 practice's employer identification number and an attestation by the  
28 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
29 homeless. A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant  
30 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the social worker or  
31 coordinator who transmitted the request. No more than one  
32 certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a person who is  
33 homeless **[person]** pursuant to this subsection shall be provided  
34 without fee; all other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject  
35 to the statutory fee. On or before December 31 of each year, the  
36 State Registrar shall report to the Office of Homelessness  
37 Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting  
38 of each instance in which the State Registrar furnished without fee a  
39 certified copy of a person's birth certificate pursuant to this  
40 subsection.

41 As used in this section:

42 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,  
43 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that  
44 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a  
45 certificate or transcript; and

46 "Person who is homeless **[person]**" means a person without a  
47 domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as  
48 determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency

1 shelter for the homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48  
2 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
3 (cf: P.L.2016, c.98, s.1)  
4

5 6. Section 6 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.7) is amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 6. a. The chief administrator shall charge fees as follows:

8 Identification Card, Original \$18

9 Identification Card, Duplicate \$5

10 Identification Card, Renewal \$18

11 Digitized picture \$6, in addition to the fees required above.

12 b. The chief administrator may waive the fees established  
13 under subsection a. of this section for a person who is homeless  
14 **[person]** who submits proof of temporary residence through a  
15 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for the  
16 homeless where the person is temporarily residing. On or before  
17 December 31 of each year, the commission shall report to the Office  
18 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community  
19 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the commission  
20 provided a fee waiver pursuant to this section. For the purposes of  
21 this section, "person who is homeless **[person]**" means a person  
22 without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable  
23 housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an  
24 emergency shelter for the homeless established pursuant to  
25 P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).

26 (cf: P.L.2016, c.99, s.1)  
27

28 7. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.56 (C.40:5-2.10b) is amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 1. The governing body of a county or municipality annually  
31 may appropriate funds to a private, nonprofit organization for the  
32 purpose of providing services to runaway or homeless youths and  
33 their families. The services may include temporary shelter, food,  
34 clothing, medical care, transportation, individual and family  
35 counseling, and any other service necessary to provide adequate  
36 temporary, protective care for runaway or homeless youths, or to  
37 aid in reuniting the youths with their parents or guardians. On or  
38 before December 31 of each year, the governing body of a  
39 municipality shall provide to the Office of Homelessness Prevention  
40 in the Department of Community Affairs a list of nonprofit  
41 organizations to which the governing body appropriated funds  
42 pursuant to this section and any available information in the  
43 possession of the governing body concerning persons who are  
44 homeless or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any  
45 applicable privacy, security, and data quality standards. For the  
46 purposes of this section, "runaway or homeless youth" means a  
47 person under the age of 18, who is absent from his legal residence

1 without the consent of his parents or legal guardian, or who is  
2 without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available.  
3 (cf: P.L.1982, c.56, s.1)

4  
5 8. Section 3 of P.L.1988, c.29 (C.52:27C-24.1) is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 3. a. The Commissioner of the Department of Community  
8 Affairs shall establish within the Division of Housing and  
9 **【Development】** Community Resources a fund for the purpose of  
10 funding programs to assist persons who are homeless pursuant to  
11 subsections f. and h. of section 24 of P.L.1944, c.85 (C.52:27C-24).

12 b. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated thereto by  
13 section 4 of P.L.1988, c.29 and such other moneys as may be  
14 appropriated or otherwise made available for that purpose.

15 c. Not more than 5% of moneys paid into the fund during any  
16 fiscal year of the State may be used to pay the costs of the fund's  
17 administration by the Department of Community Affairs during that  
18 fiscal year.

19 d. Upon the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
20 before the Legislature as this bill), the fund created pursuant to  
21 subsection a. of this section may be transferred from the Division of  
22 Housing and Community Resources to the Office of Homelessness  
23 Prevention.

24 (cf: P.L.1988, c.29, s.3)

25  
26 9. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287d) is amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 4. A local government, in consultation with the Office of  
29 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs,  
30 may adopt a homeless housing plan to address the housing needs of  
31 persons who are homeless within its jurisdiction, which shall be in  
32 accordance with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287a  
33 et al.). The plan shall include provisions for establishing a trust fund  
34 for the purposes of receiving funds pursuant to P.L.2009, c.123  
35 (C.52:27D-287a et al.), and shall evidence a strategic local scheme  
36 to identify and address the needs of **【the】** persons who are homeless  
37 within the jurisdiction, including strategies to reduce the need for  
38 emergency room care, hospital care, law enforcement, foster care,  
39 and other social services associated with 【the】 persons who are  
40 homeless and homelessness.

41 (cf: P.L.2009, c.123, s.4)

42  
43 10. Section 6 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287f) is amended to  
44 read as follows:

45 6. a. Each county shall utilize its County Homelessness Trust  
46 Fund with the advice of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task  
47 Force for the operation of a homeless housing grant program. This  
48 program is established in order to provide:

1 (1) for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing  
2 projects or units within housing projects that supply permanent  
3 affordable housing for persons who are homeless or families,  
4 including those at risk of homelessness;

5 (2) rental assistance vouchers, including tenant and project based  
6 subsidies, for affordable housing projects or units within housing  
7 projects that provide permanent affordable housing for persons who  
8 are homeless or families, including those at risk of homelessness;

9 (3) supportive services as may be required by homeless  
10 individuals or families in order to obtain or maintain, or both,  
11 permanent affordable housing; and

12 (4) prevention services for at risk homeless individuals or  
13 families so that they can obtain and maintain permanent affordable  
14 housing.

15 b. Grants awarded by the governing body of the county shall be  
16 used to support projects that:

17 (1) measurably reduce homelessness;

18 (2) demonstrate government cost savings over time;

19 (3) employ evidence-based models;

20 (4) can be replicated in other counties;

21 (5) include an outcome measurement component;

22 (6) are consistent with the local homeless housing plan; or

23 (7) fund the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation projects  
24 that will serve homeless individuals or families for a period of at  
25 least 30 years or the equal to the longest term of affordability  
26 required by other funding sources.

27 c. Each county that has established a County Homelessness  
28 Trust Fund shall transmit information concerning the uses of the  
29 funds to the **【New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency】**  
30 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of  
31 Community Affairs in accordance with requirements established by  
32 that **【agency】** office.

33 d. The governing body of a county may by resolution establish  
34 a preference for veterans that gives first priority, in the distribution  
35 of grants, for the benefit of homeless veterans, including those at  
36 risk of homelessness.

37 (cf: P.L.2017, c.320, s.1)

38

39 11. Section 1 of P.L.2008, c.28 (C.52:27I-8.1) is amended to  
40 read as follows:

41 1. In addition to the powers granted the authority pursuant to  
42 section 8 of P.L.2006, c.16 (C.52:27I-8), the authority shall have  
43 the power to enter into any legally binding agreements with  
44 representatives of **【the】** persons who are homeless that are  
45 necessary in order to comply with and implement the requirements  
46 of 32 CFR 176.30 and 24 CFR 586.30. On or before December 31  
47 of each year, the authority shall report each agreement entered into



1 by the authority pursuant to this section to the Office of  
2 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs.

3 (cf: P.L.2008, c.28, s.1)

4

5 12. (New section) There is hereby appropriated from the General  
6 Fund to the Department of Community Affairs the sum of  
7 \$3,000,000 to carry out the purposes of section 1 of  
8 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

9

10 13. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

#### STATEMENT

14

15 This bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention in  
16 the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is  
17 to coordinate among State and local agencies and private  
18 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or  
19 those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide  
20 strategy to address homelessness.

21 The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness  
22 Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to serve as  
23 an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention, to  
24 develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort  
25 among representatives of State government, providers of services to  
26 the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned  
27 representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support  
28 efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding  
29 programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who  
30 are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

31 Under the bill, the Office of Homelessness Prevention will  
32 compile data on State programs and local coalitions that provide  
33 assistance to persons who are homeless. The bill permits the  
34 transfer of the Homeless Management Information System,  
35 currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage  
36 Finance Agency, to the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

37 Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to  
38 the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of  
39 Homelessness Prevention.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3585**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 18, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3585, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is to coordinate among State and local agencies and private organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness.

The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to serve as an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention, to develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among representatives of State government, providers of services to the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

Under the bill, the Office of Homelessness Prevention will compile data on State programs and local coalitions that provide assistance to persons who are homeless. The bill permits the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, to the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

As amended and reported Senate Bill No. 3585 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 5204, as also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to revise the findings and declarations; broaden the mission of the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force; add the Director of the Division of Family Development to the task force; and clarify that members of the task

force may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to the task force.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) and the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.

The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the support the office's first year of operations. The OLS cannot identify the portion of this appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office, nor can the OLS project how long the initial \$3 million appropriation will support these costs. Consequently, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the first year of enactment.

The following State and local entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from the requirement to provide certain information to the office concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. Any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. No information is available to the OLS on the current cost to the NJHMFA of administering the system.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 3585

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 29, 2019

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3 million to DCA.
- Type of Impact:** Approximately \$3 million annual increase in State expenditures from General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Community Affairs, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Department of Children and Families, Department of Health, New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	\$3,000,000	Indeterminate Annual Increase	
<b>Local Cost</b>	Indeterminate Potential Marginal Increase		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.
- The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to support the office's first year of operations. The OLS cannot identify the portion of this appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office, nor can the OLS project how long the initial \$3 million appropriation will support these costs. Consequently, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the fiscal year of enactment.
- Under the bill, the following State and local entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from the requirement to provide certain information to the office concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: the Department of

Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

- The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. Any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. No information is available to the OLS on the current cost to the NJHMFA of administering the system.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

The bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is to coordinate among State and local agencies and private organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness.

Specifically, the office would: (1) collect, maintain, and make available information concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; (2) evaluate State and local services and develop a consolidated plan to address the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; (3) compile and disseminate information concerning funding for State and local programs serving persons who are homeless; (4) assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the activities of State programs and local coalitions for persons who are homeless; (5) convene meetings and workshops concerning policies, services, and funding of efforts to meet the needs of persons who are homeless; and (6) conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of persons who are homeless. The bill also permits the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, to the office.

The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to: (1) serve as an advisory body to the office; (2) develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among representatives of State government, providers of services to the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public; (3) develop, promote, and support efforts for the most effective means of coordinating State and local initiatives; (4) identify sources of funding for programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who are homeless or at risk for homelessness; and (5) develop more permanent housing solutions for this population.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

The OLS estimates that the enactment of the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Most notably, the bill establishes the office to coordinate among public and private entities that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness. The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force” to serve as an advisory body to the office.

The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to support the office’s first year of operations. However, the OLS is unable to identify the portions of this \$3 million appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office. The OLS also cannot project how long the \$3 million appropriation will support the up-front and ongoing costs of the office.

As a result, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the fiscal year of enactment. For example, if a large proportion of the initial \$3 million appropriation is expended on the up-front costs of establishing the office, then the annual State expenditures associated with supporting the office would be less than \$3 million. The OLS also notes that the Governor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget recommends \$3 million for the “Office of Homelessness Initiatives” in the DCA, which if approved would likely support the office.

Additionally, the bill requires certain State and local entities to provide information to the office concerning the presence of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The following public entities would be subject to this requirement: the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority. As a result, these entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from this requirement.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. The OLS notes that any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. The OLS has no information on the NJHMFA’s current cost of the system.

*Section:* Local Government

*Analyst:* Joseph A. Pezzulo  
Assistant Research Analyst

*Approved:* Frank W. Haines III  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5204

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN  
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3 million to DCA.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A5204 SWAIN

2

1 AN ACT establishing an Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
2 Department of Community Affairs, supplementing Title 52 of the  
3 Revised Statutes, amending various parts of the statutory law,  
4 and making an appropriation.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. (New section) a. There is hereby established within the  
10 Department of Community Affairs an Office of Homelessness  
11 Prevention to coordinate among State and local agencies and private  
12 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or  
13 at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to  
14 address homelessness.

15 b. The office shall be under the immediate supervision of a  
16 director, who shall be a person qualified by training and experience  
17 to direct the work of such office. The Commissioner of Community  
18 Affairs shall appoint the director, who shall serve at the pleasure of  
19 the commissioner. The director shall administer the work of the  
20 office under the direction of the commissioner and shall perform  
21 such other functions of the department as the commissioner may  
22 prescribe.

23 c. In addition to other functions, powers, and duties vested in  
24 the Department of Community Affairs by P.L. , c. (C. )  
25 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) or by any other law, the  
26 Department of Community Affairs shall, through the Office of  
27 Homelessness Prevention:

28 (1) Collect, maintain, and make available information  
29 concerning persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness,  
30 including demographics information, current services and resources  
31 available, the cost and availability of services and programs, and the  
32 met and unmet needs of this population. All entities that receive  
33 State, county, or municipal funding shall provide the office access  
34 to all data they maintain;

35 (2) Evaluate State and local services and resources and develop,  
36 implement, and revise, as necessary, a consolidated plan for  
37 addressing the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk for  
38 homelessness;

39 (3) Explore, compile, and disseminate information regarding  
40 public and private funding sources for State and local programs  
41 serving persons who are homeless;

42 (4) Assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the  
43 activities of State programs, including multi-State programs, and  
44 local coalitions for persons who are homeless and promote the

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**



1 effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of persons who are  
2 homeless;

3 (5) Convene meetings and workshops of State and local  
4 agencies, local coalitions and programs, and other stakeholders for  
5 developing and reviewing policies, services, activities,  
6 coordination, and funding of efforts to meet the needs of persons  
7 who are homeless, including training, counseling, and navigation  
8 services essential to enable persons who are homeless to make the  
9 transition to permanent housing; and

10 (6) Conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of  
11 programs addressing the needs of persons who are homeless.

12 d. All State, county, and municipal departments and agencies  
13 shall, upon request, make every reasonable effort to assist the  
14 Office of Homelessness Prevention in carrying out the office's  
15 functions, powers, and duties.

16 e. (1) On the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
17 before the Legislature as this bill), the Office of Homelessness  
18 Prevention shall have access to all information in the Homeless  
19 Management Information System administered in the New Jersey  
20 Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency.

21 (2) The Homeless Management Information System,  
22 administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance  
23 Agency, including any personnel charged with administering and  
24 maintaining the Homeless Management Information System, may  
25 be transferred to the Office of Homelessness Prevention. If the  
26 Homeless Management Information System is transferred pursuant  
27 to this paragraph, all appropriations, grants, and other moneys  
28 available and to become available to the New Jersey Housing and  
29 Mortgage Finance Agency, which the agency uses for the  
30 maintenance and administration of the Homeless Management  
31 Information System, shall be transferred to the Office of  
32 Homelessness Prevention.

33

34 2. (New section) a. The Legislature finds and declares that it  
35 is in the public interest for State policymakers, providers of services  
36 to people who are homeless, advocacy organizations, and other  
37 concerned representatives of the public to engage in an intensive  
38 collaborative effort to seek to devise more effective means of  
39 coordinating and funding programs to meet the needs of persons  
40 within New Jersey who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

41 b. There is established the "New Jersey Homelessness  
42 Prevention Task Force." The purpose of the task force shall be to  
43 serve as an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention  
44 in the Department of Community Affairs, to develop  
45 recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among  
46 representatives of State government, providers of services to the  
47 homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned  
48 representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support

A5204 SWAIN

1 efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding  
2 programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who  
3 are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

4 c. The task force shall consist of 15 members including the  
5 Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the  
6 Department of Community Affairs, or the director's designee, and  
7 fourteen members, who shall be appointed by the Governor no later  
8 than the 60th day after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. )  
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and who may be  
10 government officials or members of the public with a demonstrated  
11 expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force.

12 d. The Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, or  
13 the director's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force.  
14 The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
15 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from  
16 among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who  
17 need not be a member of the task force.

18 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
19 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
20 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
21 to the task force.

22 f. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
23 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or  
24 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
25 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

26 g. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it  
27 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

28 h. The Department of Community Affairs shall provide staff  
29 support to the task force.

30 i. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled  
31 in the same manner provided for the original appointments.

32

33 3. Section 4 of P.L.1999, c.224 (C.9:12A-5) is amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
36 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
37 organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, that provide  
38 street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living services  
39 for homeless youth. The department shall establish licensure  
40 requirements and shall contract for programs that ensure that  
41 services, as specified by this act, are provided to homeless youth in  
42 the State in an appropriate and responsible manner. The  
43 commissioner may establish such other requirements for the  
44 homeless youth programs as he deems necessary. On or before  
45 December 31 of each year, the department shall provide to the  
46 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of  
47 Community Affairs a list of organizations and agencies  
48 participating in the program and any available information in the

1 possession of the department concerning persons who are homeless  
2 or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any applicable  
3 privacy, security, and data quality standards.

4 (cf: P.L.1999, s.224, s.4)

5

6 4. N.J.S.18A:38-1 is amended to read as follows:

7 18A:38-1. Public schools shall be free to the following persons  
8 over five and under 20 years of age:

9 a. Any person who is domiciled within the school district;

10 b. (1) Any person who is kept in the home of another person  
11 domiciled within the school district and is supported by such other  
12 person gratis as if he were such other person's own child, upon  
13 filing by such other person with the secretary of the board of  
14 education of the district, if so required by the board, a sworn  
15 statement that he is domiciled within the district and is supporting  
16 the child gratis and will assume all personal obligations for the  
17 child relative to school requirements and that he intends so to keep  
18 and support the child gratuitously for a longer time than merely  
19 through the school term, and a copy of his lease if a tenant, or a  
20 sworn statement by his landlord acknowledging his tenancy if  
21 residing as a tenant without a written lease, and upon filing by the  
22 child's parent or guardian with the secretary of the board of  
23 education a sworn statement that he is not capable of supporting or  
24 providing care for the child due to a family or economic hardship  
25 and that the child is not residing with the resident of the district  
26 solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education within  
27 the district. The statement shall be accompanied by documentation  
28 to support the validity of the sworn statements, information from or  
29 about which shall be supplied only to the board and only to the  
30 extent that it directly pertains to the support or nonsupport of the  
31 child. If in the judgment of the board of education the evidence  
32 does not support the validity of the claim by the resident, the board  
33 may deny admission to the child. The resident may contest the  
34 board's decision to the commissioner within 21 days of the date of  
35 the decision and shall be entitled to an expedited hearing before the  
36 commissioner on the validity of the claim and shall have the burden  
37 of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is eligible  
38 for a free education under the criteria listed in this subsection. The  
39 board of education shall, at the time of its decision, notify the  
40 resident in writing of his right to contest the board's decision to the  
41 commissioner within 21 days. No child shall be denied admission  
42 during the pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner.  
43 In the event the child is currently enrolled in the district, the student  
44 shall not be removed from school during the 21-day period in which  
45 the resident may contest the board's decision nor during the  
46 pendency of the proceedings before the commissioner. If in the  
47 judgment of the commissioner the evidence does not support the  
48 claim of the resident, he shall assess the resident tuition for the

1 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
2 the school district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis of 1/180  
3 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district multiplied by  
4 the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall be collected in  
5 the manner in which orders of the commissioner are enforced.  
6 Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition from the  
7 resident, parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
8 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
9 appealed to the commissioner;

10 (2) If the superintendent or administrative principal of a school  
11 district finds that the parent or guardian of a child who is attending  
12 the schools of the district is not domiciled within the district and the  
13 child is not kept in the home of another person domiciled within the  
14 school district and supported by him gratis as if the child was the  
15 person's own child as provided for in paragraph (1) of this  
16 subsection, the superintendent or administrative principal may  
17 apply to the board of education for the removal of the child. The  
18 parent or guardian shall be entitled to a hearing before the board  
19 and if in the judgment of the board the parent or guardian is not  
20 domiciled within the district or the child is not kept in the home of  
21 another person domiciled within the school district and supported  
22 by him gratis as if the child was the person's own child as provided  
23 for in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the board may order the  
24 transfer or removal of the child from school. The parent or  
25 guardian may contest the board's decision before the commissioner  
26 within 21 days of the date of the decision and shall be entitled to an  
27 expedited hearing before the commissioner and shall have the  
28 burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that the child is  
29 eligible for a free education under the criteria listed in this  
30 subsection. The board of education shall, at the time of its decision,  
31 notify the parent or guardian in writing of his right to contest the  
32 decision within 21 days. No child shall be removed from school  
33 during the 21-day period in which the parent may contest the  
34 board's decision or during the pendency of the proceedings before  
35 the commissioner. If in the judgment of the commissioner the  
36 evidence does not support the claim of the parent or guardian, the  
37 commissioner shall assess the parent or guardian tuition for the  
38 student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in  
39 the schools of the district. Tuition shall be computed on the basis  
40 of 1/180 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district  
41 multiplied by the number of days of ineligible attendance and shall  
42 be collected in the manner in which orders of the commissioner are  
43 enforced. Nothing shall preclude a board from collecting tuition  
44 from the parent or guardian for a student's period of ineligible  
45 attendance in the schools of the district where the issue is not  
46 appealed to the commissioner;

47 The provisions of this section requiring proof of support, custody  
48 or tenancy shall not apply to a person keeping a child in his home

1 whose parent or guardian is a member of the New Jersey National  
2 Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of  
3 the United States and who has been ordered into active military  
4 service in any of the armed forces of the United States in time of  
5 war or national emergency. In such a situation, the child shall be  
6 eligible to enroll in the district in which he is being kept, and no  
7 tuition shall be charged by the district. Following the return of the  
8 child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's  
9 eligibility for enrollment without tuition in the district in which he  
10 or she is being kept shall cease at the end of the current school year;

11 c. Any person who fraudulently allows a child of another  
12 person to use his residence and is not the primary financial  
13 supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to  
14 have given up custody of his child to a person in another district  
15 commits a disorderly persons offense;

16 d. Any person whose parent or guardian, even though not  
17 domiciled within the district, is residing temporarily therein, but  
18 any person who has had or shall have his all-year-round dwelling  
19 place within the district for one year or longer shall be deemed to be  
20 domiciled within the district for the purposes of this section;

21 e. Any person for whom the Division of Youth and Family  
22 Services in the Department of Children and Families is acting as  
23 guardian and who is placed in the district by the division;

24 f. Any person whose parent or guardian moves from one  
25 school district to another school district as a result of being  
26 homeless and whose district of residence is determined pursuant to  
27 section 19 of P.L.1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12). On or before  
28 December 31 of each year, a public school shall report to the Office  
29 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community  
30 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the public school is  
31 made aware that a student enrolled in the public school because the  
32 student's parent or guardian moved from one school district to  
33 another school district as a result of being homeless.

34 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.94)

35

36 5. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

37 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

38 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,  
39 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate  
40 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for  
41 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

42 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without  
43 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,  
44 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death  
45 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;  
46 and

47 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of  
48 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the

1 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval  
2 enlistment purposes; and

3 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by  
4 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New  
5 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a  
6 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic  
7 partnership certificate; and

8 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a  
9 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the  
10 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family  
11 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant  
12 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a  
13 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to  
14 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be  
15 subject to the statutory fee; and

16 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a person who is  
17 homeless **[person]** a certified copy of the person's birth certificate,  
18 provided that the person submits the request through a social  
19 worker or the coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless  
20 where the person is temporarily residing. The request shall be  
21 transmitted on the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include  
22 the shelter's employer identification number and an attestation by  
23 the coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
24 homeless and residing at the shelter or the request shall be  
25 submitted on the social worker's agency or professional practice  
26 letterhead and shall include the agency's or the professional  
27 practice's employer identification number and an attestation by the  
28 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently  
29 homeless. A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant  
30 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the social worker or  
31 coordinator who transmitted the request. No more than one  
32 certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a person who is  
33 homeless **[person]** pursuant to this subsection shall be provided  
34 without fee; all other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject  
35 to the statutory fee. On or before December 31 of each year, the  
36 State Registrar shall report to the Office of Homelessness  
37 Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs an accounting  
38 of each instance in which the State Registrar furnished without fee a  
39 certified copy of a person's birth certificate pursuant to this  
40 subsection.

41 As used in this section:

42 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,  
43 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that  
44 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a  
45 certificate or transcript; and

46 "Person who is homeless **[person]**" means a person without a  
47 domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as

1 determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency  
2 shelter for the homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48  
3 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
4 (cf: P.L.2016, c.98, s.1)

5  
6 6. Section 6 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.7) is amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 6. a. The chief administrator shall charge fees as follows:

9 Identification Card, Original \$18  
10 Identification Card, Duplicate \$5  
11 Identification Card, Renewal \$18  
12 Digitized picture \$6, in addition to the fees required above.

13 b. The chief administrator may waive the fees established  
14 under subsection a. of this section for a person who is homeless  
15 **[person]** who submits proof of temporary residence through a  
16 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for the  
17 homeless where the person is temporarily residing. On or before  
18 December 31 of each year, the commission shall report to the Office  
19 of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community  
20 Affairs an accounting of each instance in which the commission  
21 provided a fee waiver pursuant to this section. For the purposes of  
22 this section, "person who is homeless **[person]**" means a person  
23 without a domicile who is unable to secure permanent and stable  
24 housing as determined by a social worker or the coordinator of an  
25 emergency shelter for the homeless established pursuant to  
26 P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).  
27 (cf: P.L.2016, c.99, s.1)

28  
29 7. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.56 (C.40:5-2.10b) is amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 1. The governing body of a county or municipality annually  
32 may appropriate funds to a private, nonprofit organization for the  
33 purpose of providing services to runaway or homeless youths and  
34 their families. The services may include temporary shelter, food,  
35 clothing, medical care, transportation, individual and family  
36 counseling, and any other service necessary to provide adequate  
37 temporary, protective care for runaway or homeless youths, or to  
38 aid in reuniting the youths with their parents or guardians. On or  
39 before December 31 of each year, the governing body of a  
40 municipality shall provide to the Office of Homelessness Prevention  
41 in the Department of Community Affairs a list of nonprofit  
42 organizations to which the governing body appropriated funds  
43 pursuant to this section and any available information in the  
44 possession of the governing body concerning persons who are  
45 homeless or at risk for homelessness in accordance with any  
46 applicable privacy, security, and data quality standards. For the  
47 purposes of this section, "runaway or homeless youth" means a  
48 person under the age of 18, who is absent from his legal residence

1 without the consent of his parents or legal guardian, or who is  
2 without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available.  
3 (cf: P.L.1982, c.56, s.1)

4  
5 8. Section 3 of P.L.1988, c.29 (C.52:27C-24.1) is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 3. a. The Commissioner of the Department of Community  
8 Affairs shall establish within the Division of Housing and  
9 **【Development】** Community Resources a fund for the purpose of  
10 funding programs to assist persons who are homeless pursuant to  
11 subsections f. and h. of section 24 of P.L.1944, c.85 (C.52:27C-24).

12 b. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated thereto by  
13 section 4 of P.L.1988, c.29 and such other moneys as may be  
14 appropriated or otherwise made available for that purpose.

15 c. Not more than 5% of moneys paid into the fund during any  
16 fiscal year of the State may be used to pay the costs of the fund's  
17 administration by the Department of Community Affairs during that  
18 fiscal year.

19 d. Upon the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
20 before the Legislature as this bill), the fund created pursuant to  
21 subsection a. of this section may be transferred from the Division of  
22 Housing and Community Resources to the Office of Homelessness  
23 Prevention.

24 (cf: P.L.1988, c.29, s.3)

25  
26 9. Section 4 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287d) is amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 4. A local government, in consultation with the Office of  
29 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs,  
30 may adopt a homeless housing plan to address the housing needs of  
31 persons who are homeless within its jurisdiction, which shall be in  
32 accordance with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287a  
33 et al.). The plan shall include provisions for establishing a trust fund  
34 for the purposes of receiving funds pursuant to P.L.2009, c.123  
35 (C.52:27D-287a et al.), and shall evidence a strategic local scheme  
36 to identify and address the needs of **【the】** persons who are homeless  
37 within the jurisdiction, including strategies to reduce the need for  
38 emergency room care, hospital care, law enforcement, foster care,  
39 and other social services associated with 【the】 persons who are  
40 homeless and homelessness.

41 (cf: P.L.2009, c.123, s.4)

42  
43 10. Section 6 of P.L.2009, c.123 (C.52:27D-287f) is amended to  
44 read as follows:

45 6. a. Each county shall utilize its County Homelessness Trust  
46 Fund with the advice of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task  
47 Force for the operation of a homeless housing grant program. This  
48 program is established in order to provide:



1 (1) for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing  
2 projects or units within housing projects that supply permanent  
3 affordable housing for persons who are homeless or families,  
4 including those at risk of homelessness;

5 (2) rental assistance vouchers, including tenant and project based  
6 subsidies, for affordable housing projects or units within housing  
7 projects that provide permanent affordable housing for persons who  
8 are homeless or families, including those at risk of homelessness;

9 (3) supportive services as may be required by homeless  
10 individuals or families in order to obtain or maintain, or both,  
11 permanent affordable housing; and

12 (4) prevention services for at risk homeless individuals or  
13 families so that they can obtain and maintain permanent affordable  
14 housing.

15 b. Grants awarded by the governing body of the county shall be  
16 used to support projects that:

17 (1) measurably reduce homelessness;

18 (2) demonstrate government cost savings over time;

19 (3) employ evidence-based models;

20 (4) can be replicated in other counties;

21 (5) include an outcome measurement component;

22 (6) are consistent with the local homeless housing plan; or

23 (7) fund the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation projects  
24 that will serve homeless individuals or families for a period of at  
25 least 30 years or the equal to the longest term of affordability  
26 required by other funding sources.

27 c. Each county that has established a County Homelessness  
28 Trust Fund shall transmit information concerning the uses of the  
29 funds to the **【New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency】**  
30 Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of  
31 Community Affairs in accordance with requirements established by  
32 that **【agency】** office.

33 d. The governing body of a county may by resolution establish  
34 a preference for veterans that gives first priority, in the distribution  
35 of grants, for the benefit of homeless veterans, including those at  
36 risk of homelessness.

37 (cf: P.L.2017, c.320, s.1)

38

39 11. Section 1 of P.L.2008, c.28 (C.52:27I-8.1) is amended to  
40 read as follows:

41 1. In addition to the powers granted the authority pursuant to  
42 section 8 of P.L.2006, c.16 (C.52:27I-8), the authority shall have  
43 the power to enter into any legally binding agreements with  
44 representatives of **【the】** persons who are homeless that are  
45 necessary in order to comply with and implement the requirements  
46 of 32 CFR 176.30 and 24 CFR 586.30. On or before December 31  
47 of each year, the authority shall report each agreement entered into

1 by the authority pursuant to this section to the Office of  
2 Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs.

3 (cf: P.L.2008, c.28, s.1)

4

5 12. (New section) There is hereby appropriated from the General  
6 Fund to the Department of Community Affairs the sum of  
7 \$3,000,000 to carry out the purposes of section 1 of  
8 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

9

10 13. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

14

#### STATEMENT

15

16 This bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention in  
17 the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is  
18 to coordinate among State and local agencies and private  
19 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or  
20 those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide  
21 strategy to address homelessness.

22 The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness  
23 Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to serve as  
24 an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention, to  
25 develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort  
26 among representatives of State government, providers of services to  
27 the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned  
28 representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support  
29 efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding  
30 programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who  
31 are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

32 Under the bill, the Office of Homelessness Prevention will  
33 compile data on State programs and local coalitions that provide  
34 assistance to persons who are homeless. The bill permits the  
35 transfer of the Homeless Management Information System,  
36 currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage  
37 Finance Agency, to the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

38 Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to  
39 the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of  
40 Homelessness Prevention.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 5204**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 18, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5204, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is to coordinate among State and local agencies and private organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness.

The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to serve as an advisory body to the Office of Homelessness Prevention, to develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among representatives of State government, providers of services to the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public, and to develop, promote, and support efforts for the most effective means of coordinating and funding programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

Under the bill, the Office of Homelessness Prevention will compile data on State programs and local coalitions that provide assistance to persons who are homeless. The bill permits the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, to the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5204 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3585, as amended and reported by the committee on this date.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to revise the findings and declarations; broaden the mission of the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force; add the Director of the Division of Family Development to the task force; and clarify that members of the task

force may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to the task force.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) and the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.

The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the support the office's first year of operations. The OLS cannot identify the portion of this appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office, nor can the OLS project how long the initial \$3 million appropriation will support these costs. Consequently, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the first year of enactment.

The following State and local entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from the requirement to provide certain information to the office concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. Any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. No information is available to the OLS on the current cost to the NJHMFA of administering the system.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 5204

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 29, 2019

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes Office of Homelessness Prevention; appropriates \$3 million to DCA.
- Type of Impact:** Approximately \$3 million annual increase in State expenditures from General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Community Affairs, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Department of Children and Families, Department of Health, New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	\$3,000,000	Indeterminate Annual Increase	
<b>Local Cost</b>	Indeterminate Potential Marginal Increase		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.
- The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to support the office's first year of operations. The OLS cannot identify the portion of this appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office, nor can the OLS project how long the initial \$3 million appropriation will support these costs. Consequently, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the fiscal year of enactment.
- Under the bill, the following State and local entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from the requirement to provide certain information to the

office concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority.

- The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. Any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. No information is available to the OLS on the current cost to the NJHMFA of administering the system.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

The bill establishes the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs. The purpose of the office is to coordinate among State and local agencies and private organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness.

Specifically, the office would: (1) collect, maintain, and make available information concerning persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; (2) evaluate State and local services and develop a consolidated plan to address the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; (3) compile and disseminate information concerning funding for State and local programs serving persons who are homeless; (4) assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the activities of State programs and local coalitions for persons who are homeless; (5) convene meetings and workshops concerning policies, services, and funding of efforts to meet the needs of persons who are homeless; and (6) conduct or promote research on the effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of persons who are homeless. The bill also permits the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, currently administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, to the office.

The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to: (1) serve as an advisory body to the office; (2) develop recommendations, through an intensive collaborative effort among representatives of State government, providers of services to the homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public; (3) develop, promote, and support efforts for the most effective means of coordinating State and local initiatives; (4) identify sources of funding for programs to meet the various needs of persons within this State who are homeless or at risk for homelessness; and (5) develop more permanent housing solutions for this population.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs to fund the Office of Homelessness Prevention.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

The OLS estimates that the enactment of the bill would result in a \$3 million increase in State expenditures during the fiscal year of enactment, and an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures thereafter, due to the operations of the Office of Homelessness Prevention (office) in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Most notably, the bill establishes the office to coordinate among public and private entities that provide services to persons who are homeless or those at risk for homelessness, and to implement a Statewide strategy to address homelessness. The bill also establishes the “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force” to serve as an advisory body to the office.

The bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to support the office’s first year of operations. However, the OLS is unable to identify the portions of this \$3 million appropriation that will be used to support (1) the up-front costs of establishing the office, and (2) the ongoing costs of operating the office. The OLS also cannot project how long the \$3 million appropriation will support the up-front and ongoing costs of the office.

As a result, the OLS is unable to quantify the annual increase in DCA expenditures that is expected to result from the bill after the fiscal year of enactment. For example, if a large proportion of the initial \$3 million appropriation is expended on the up-front costs of establishing the office, then the annual State expenditures associated with supporting the office would be less than \$3 million. The OLS also notes that the Governor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget recommends \$3 million for the “Office of Homelessness Initiatives” in the DCA, which if approved would likely support the office.

Additionally, the bill requires certain State and local entities to provide information to the office concerning the presence of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The following public entities would be subject to this requirement: the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, public schools, municipalities, counties, and the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority. As a result, these entities may experience a marginal increase in administrative expenses resulting from this requirement.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of the Homeless Management Information System, which is currently administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), to the office. The OLS notes that any funds currently allocated by the NJHMFA to support the system would also be transferred to the DCA. The OLS has no information on the NJHMFA’s current cost of the system.

*Section:* Local Government  
*Analyst:* Joseph A. Pezzulo  
Assistant Research Analyst  
*Approved:* Frank W. Haines III  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).



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Newark, N.J.

# Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Assistance Legislation

04/30/2019

## Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Assistance Legislation

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed S3585 and S3586 into law, expanding state housing aid for New Jersey's most vulnerable individuals and families.

“Every New Jerseyan deserves a safe and affordable place to live,” **said Governor Murphy**. “With these new laws, we are acting on our commitment to build stronger communities and ensure that no one in New Jersey, especially the most vulnerable among us, spends a night without a place to call home. I commend the Legislature for working with me to combat these critical issues of homelessness and housing insecurity.”

“This important legislation will help protect some of our state’s most vulnerable residents from the indignity of homelessness. I commend the Legislature for their action to put this bill before Governor Murphy for his signature today,” **said Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver**, who also serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. “Coordinating the critical information, services and organizations that assist people experiencing homeless will be a powerful, strategic force to help fight this problem in New Jersey – because one person living on the street is one too many.”

“Ensuring that New Jerseyans at-risk of homelessness get the assistance they need when they need it is among our top priorities,” **said Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson**. “Emergency Assistance is a vital lifeline for those at-risk of homelessness, and this new legislation includes a clear emphasis on providing support to help people getting Emergency Assistance find stable housing. With this legislation, together with the work that we are doing in Human Services to make it easier for individuals and families to receive critical services in a timely way, New Jersey is taking big steps toward helping our most vulnerable residents.”

S3585 establishes an Office of Homelessness Prevention in the Department of Community Affairs. The office will coordinate homelessness-prevention efforts among State and local agencies and private organizations and implement a statewide strategy to address homelessness. The legislation allocates \$3 million in funding for the new office. Primary sponsors of S3585 include Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senator Dawn Addiego, and Assemblywomen Lisa Swain and Eliana Pintor Marin.

S3586 allows individuals to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits. The legislation provides that emergency assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years ago would not count toward the program’s 12-month limit on benefits. The bill specifies that no individual may receive a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency assistance, excluding extensions available under current law. The bill also requires DHS to provide case management services to assist individuals who receive emergency assistance under the bill with finding more stable housing. Additionally, the legislation limits



the total amount of assistance the state can distribute to people who had already received emergency housing aid to \$20 million. Up to \$5 million will be made available to cover the cost of the case management services required by the bill. Primary sponsors of S3586 include Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assemblymembers Raj Mukherji, Angela McKnight, and Nicholas Chiaravalloti.

The Department of Human Services is also taking action to make it easier for individuals and families who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless to receive critical services and assistance in a timely way. The changes include updating guidance and proposing rule changes to make timely access to Emergency Assistance services easier for eligible individuals struggling to make rent, pay utilities or secure emergency shelter; making it easier for families experiencing homelessness to get child care; and easing barriers to enrollment for these critical programs.

“The absolute limit on Emergency Assistance for the homeless is needlessly harsh. We have a moral responsibility to help those who face the frightening threat of being forced out of their homes and onto the streets,” **said Senate President Steve Sweeney**. “This assistance can be a lifeline for the most vulnerable members of our communities who are experiencing hard times that make it all but impossible for them to meet basic needs, including food and shelter. There are homeless veterans suffering from PTSD, abused mothers with young children, and recovering drug addicts and alcoholics who find themselves out on the street and in need of our help.”

“Today New Jersey takes action to assist those in our communities that need it the most,” **said Senator Dawn Marie Addiego**. “With the establishment of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, greater resources will be available to those in need and more adequate funding will be accessible to agencies and organizations. The capability to properly evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts will allow us to better serve the thousands of New Jerseyans already homeless or in the crucial moments before they lose their homes.”

“Although New Jersey has seen a dramatic decline in homelessness over the last decade, national statistics show a 9 percent rise in homelessness in the state since 2017,” **said Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin**. “Now is the time to strengthen the various efforts happening around the state to prevent homelessness by pulling these organizations and advocacy groups together. We can do more to protect our residents, especially families and veterans, from having their only option be to live on the street or in shelters. This will help us do just that.”

“The Work First New Jersey program helps our most vulnerable residents in their time of need,” **said Assemblyman Raj Mukherji**. “Without this assistance, many would be at risk of homelessness. Not only does the program give residents the means to get through hard times, but it also guides them in finding employment and activities to help them become self-sufficient.”

“Life is unpredictable, and it is not uncommon for someone to face economic hardship more than once,” **said Assemblywoman Angela McKnight**. “This legislation will help people regain access to emergency assistance benefits to get them back on their feet.”

“This law will help our fellow New Jerseyans at risk of becoming homeless gain greater access to emergency assistance,” **said Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti**. “Even for those with the best of means, no one is immune from experiencing life-altering circumstances like homelessness.”

“The only way to effectively address homelessness is to engage in an intensive collaborative effort involving all stakeholders: state policymakers, providers of services to people who are homeless, and advocacy organizations,” **said Assemblywoman Lisa Swain**. “Coordinating and funding programs to meet the needs of persons within New Jersey who are homeless or at risk for homelessness should always be a priority. If we are to tackle this issue in our communities throughout the state, this is where we begin.”

“Congratulations to Governor Murphy for stepping up to mend a hole in the safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors,” **said Diane Riley**, Executive Director of Supportive Housing Association of NJ. “Emergency Assistance only works when it can be there for people in critical moments when they need it. That can happen several times over the course of a lifetime especially for those who struggle with multiple challenges. We are so proud to work with our state leaders who understand how important every person is to our community.”

“We commend Governor Murphy and legislative leaders for coming to a resolution that will help our most vulnerable residents,” **said Staci Berger**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ. “For New Jerseyans who are on the verge of homelessness and simply need temporary help, this will be a critical lifeline. We applaud the Governor and legislators for taking a step in the right direction to ensure our neighbors have a roof over their head and a safe place to rest at night.”

“Our network cheers the efforts of Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Coughlin on ensuring access to critical homelessness assistance and services for those in crisis,” **said Renee Koubiadis**, Executive Director of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey. “In our high-cost state, it is not uncommon for people to be housing insecure and find themselves needing temporary assistance more than once when rough times hit. Emergency Assistance is a crucial piece of the safety net to ensure a safe place to stay for our most vulnerable neighbors.”

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## Governor Phil Murphy

## Statewide

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