

Bill No. 34-13
Concerning: Interagency Commission on
Homelessness – Established
Revised: 3/24/2013 Draft No. 2
Introduced: December 10, 2013
Enacted: April 1, 2014
Executive: April 10, 2014
Effective: July 10, 2014
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 4, Laws of Mont. Co. 2014

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Vice-President Leventhal and Council President Rice

AN ACT to:

- (1) establish an Interagency Commission on Homelessness;
- (2) establish the membership and duties of the Commission; and
- (3) generally amend the law relating to health and sanitation.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Article IX. Interagency Commission on Homelessness
Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-64, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, 24-68, ~~[[and]]~~ 24-69, and 24-70

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 Sec. 1. Article IX (Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-64, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, 24-68,
2 [[and]] 24-69, and 24-70) is added as follows:

3 Article IX. Interagency Commission on Homelessness

4 24-62. Legislative findings and statement of policy.

5 (a) The County Council finds that reducing homelessness requires
6 substantial coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local
7 governments, as well as private sector service providers and community
8 organizations.

9 (b) Montgomery County Continuum of Care is a group of governmental
10 entities and community representatives that carries out the
11 responsibilities of the Continuum of Care program established pursuant
12 to the federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to
13 Housing Act of 2009 (the HEARTH Act).

14 (c) The County Council intends that the Interagency Commission on
15 Homelessness established under this Article be constituted and function
16 in such a manner that it may serve as the governing board of
17 Montgomery County Continuum of Care, and in serving this function
18 comply with applicable federal regulations governing the Continuum of
19 Care program.

20 24-63. Definitions.

21 [[In]]When used in this Article[[,]]:

22 100,000 Homes Campaign means an initiative in special needs housing that
23 gives priority to placing the most vulnerable, chronically homeless people in
24 permanent supportive housing through a Housing First model;

25 Commission means the Interagency Commission on Homelessness;

26 Continuum of Care means a community program, established under the
27 HEARTH Act, to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the

28 specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and
 29 maximum self-sufficiency; and

30 Housing First Initiative means a process for placing homeless people into
 31 housing that discourages imposing conditions on placement related to health,
 32 employment, or sobriety, and seeks to reduce the time in shelter or transitional
 33 programs and provide the needed supports to people in a permanent home.

34 ~~[[24-63.]]~~**24-64. Established.**

35 The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an
 36 Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

37 ~~[[24-64.]]~~**24-65. Members**

38 (a) The Commission has 25 members.

39 (b) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as ex-officio
 40 members:

41 (1) Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;

42 (2) Chief of Special Needs Housing of the Department of Health and
 43 Human Services;

44 (3) Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services of the Department
 45 of Health and Human Services;

46 (4) Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation;

47 (5) Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

48 (6) Assistant Chief for Field Services of the Montgomery County
 49 Police Department; and

50 (7) A representative from the Office of the County Executive[; and

51 (8) The Director of the Family Justice Center]].

52 (c) The Executive must invite the following to serve as ex officio members:

53 (1) A member of the County Council, selected by the Council
 54 President;

- 55 (2) Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission;
 56 (3) Director of Student Services of the Montgomery County Public
 57 Schools;
 58 (4) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
 59 Gaithersburg;
 60 (5) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
 61 Rockville;
 62 (6) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
 63 Takoma Park;
 64 (7) A representative of the either the United States Department of
 65 Veterans Affairs or the Maryland Department of Veterans
 66 Affairs; [[and]]
 67 (8) The Montgomery County Sheriff or the representative of the
 68 County Sheriff; and
 69 (9) A member of the County Legislative Delegation selected jointly
 70 by the Chairs of the House and Senate Delegations.
 71 (d) The Executive must appoint 5 members that are representatives of the
 72 Montgomery County Continuum of Care.
 73 (e) The Executive must appoint 4 members of the public. At least 1 public
 74 member must be a homeless or formerly homeless resident of
 75 Montgomery County and at least 1 member must be a representative of
 76 a hospital located in Montgomery County.
 77 (f) The term of each non-ex officio member is 3 years. If a member is
 78 appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves
 79 the rest of the unexpired term.
 80 **[[24-65.]]24-66. Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, compensation;**
 81 **subcommittees.**

- 82 (a) Each member of the [[Group]] Commission is a voting member.
- 83 (b) The Executive must designate a Chair and Vice Chair.
- 84 (c) The Commission must meet at least 4 times each year.
- 85 (d) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may
 86 request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates
 87 established by the County.
- 88 (e) The Commission may establish 1 or more subcommittees to assist in
 89 carrying out any function of the Commission. Any subcommittee action
 90 is not the action of the Commission and must not bind the Commission
 91 or its members. A subcommittee may include a person who is not a
 92 member of the Commission. [[However, the chair of each
 93 subcommittee must be a member of the Commission.]]

94 **[[24-66.]]24-67. Duties.**

95 The Commission must:

- 96 (a) promote a community-wide goal to end homelessness;
- 97 (b) develop a strategic plan to prevent and reduce homelessness and
 98 minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and
 99 individuals;
- 100 (c) review and monitor any program that is a component of the Continuum
 101 of Care, 100,000 Homes Campaign, and Housing First Initiative,
 102 including:
 - 103 (1) permanent housing;
 - 104 (2) transitional housing;
 - 105 (3) supportive services;
 - 106 (4) homeless management information system; [[and]]
 - 107 (5) homelessness prevention; and
 - 108 (6) emergency shelter;

- 109 (d) recommend to the Executive and Council any improvements to the
 110 Continuum of Care, including process changes, to reduce any barrier to
 111 housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from
 112 homelessness to housing;
- 113 (e) educate the community about homelessness, best practices to reduce
 114 homelessness, resources needed to reduce homelessness, and long term
 115 savings that are achieved by providing permanent, stable housing; and
- 116 (f) recommend and promote partnerships with any private organization,
 117 business, corporation, philanthropic organization or foundation, and any
 118 municipal, state, or federal government agency to improve the County's
 119 ability to prevent and reduce homelessness.

120 **[[24-67.]]24-68. Annual report.**

121 By November 30 of each year, the Commission must submit to the Executive
 122 and Council a report that:

- 123 (a) provides data and trends regarding homelessness, including data from
 124 the Council of Government's Point-in-Time survey and the 100,000
 125 Homes Campaign survey;
- 126 (b) identifies gaps in the Continuum of Care that prevent or impede the
 127 County's ability to address needs identified through the review of data
 128 on homeless;
- 129 (c) makes recommendations for the capital and operating budget for the
 130 following fiscal year;
- 131 (d) makes recommendation for any legislative or regulatory changes needed
 132 to implement the Continuum of Care strategic plan; and
- 133 (e) reports on any educational or public outreach activities undertaken
 134 during the preceding year.

135 **[[24-68.]]24-69. Advocacy.**

136 The Commission must not engage in any legislative advocacy at the state or
137 federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental
138 Relations.

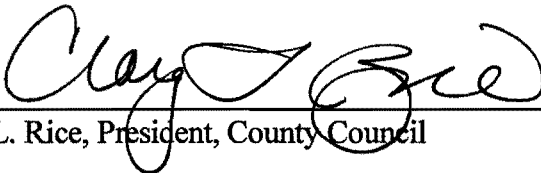
139 **[[24-69.]]24-70. Staff.**

140 The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff within the
141 Department of Health and Human Services to staff the Commission.

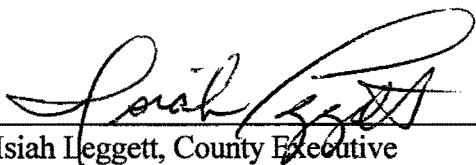
142 **Sec. 2. Terms for Initial Members.**

143 The County Executive must stagger the terms of the non-ex officio members
144 initially appointed under Section 24-64 so that approximately one-third of the terms
145 of these members expire each year.


146 *Approved:*

147  4/1/2014
Craig L. Rice, President, County Council Date

148 *Approved:*

149  April 10, 2014
Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

150 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

151  April 11, 2014
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date