

SENATE, No. 4604

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires organizations providing services to homeless persons to participate in Homeless Management Information System to track occupancy of shelter beds.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning agencies that provide services to persons
2 experiencing homelessness and amending P.L.2019, c.73 and
3 P.L.2021, c.440.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.73 (C.52:27D-287.5) is amended to
9 read as follows:

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

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

24 c. In addition to other functions, powers, and duties vested in
25 the Department of Community Affairs by P.L.2019, c.73
26 (C.52:27D-287.5 et al.) or by any other law, the Department of
27 Community Affairs shall, through the Office of Homelessness
28 Prevention:

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

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

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

43 (4) Assess and provide recommendations for coordinating the
44 activities of State programs, including multi-State programs, and
45 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.2019, c.73 (C.52:27D-287.5
17 et al.), the Office of Homelessness Prevention shall have access to
18 all information in the Homeless Management Information System
19 administered in the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance
20 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 (3) The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, or
34 the Office of Homelessness Prevention, if the Homeless
35 Management Information System is transferred pursuant to
36 paragraph (2) of this subsection, shall:

37 (a) adopt rules and regulations to:

38 (i) require all State and local agencies and private organizations
39 that provide services to persons who are homeless or at risk for
40 homelessness to participate in the Homeless Management
41 Information System and delineate necessary information reporting
42 requirements as part of this participation, including information
43 concerning the occupancy status of shelter beds pursuant to section
44 1 of P.L.2021, c.440 (C.55:14K-5.5); and

45 (ii) establish criteria for hotels and motels to qualify as private
46 organizations that provide services to persons who are homeless or
47 at risk for homelessness; and

1 (b) provide grants to those agencies and private organizations
2 for any costs associated with joining, and participating in, the
3 Homeless Management Information System pursuant to
4 subparagraph (a) of this paragraph. The Executive Director of the
5 New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or the Director
6 of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, as applicable, shall adopt
7 rules and regulations to facilitate requests for funding to join and
8 participate in the Homeless Management Information System. An
9 agency or private organization that joins and participates in the
10 Homeless Management Information System may apply for a grant
11 on a form and in such a manner as determined by the Executive
12 Director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
13 or the Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, as
14 applicable.

15 (4) Each year after the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.)
16 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Executive Director
17 of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or the
18 Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, as applicable,
19 shall submit information on the agency's or office's financial needs
20 concerning the provision of grants pursuant to subparagraph (b) of
21 paragraph (3) of this subsection as part of the agency's or office's
22 annual budget request.

23 (cf: P.L.2019, c.73, s.1)

24
25 2. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.440 (C.55:14K-5.5) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 1. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, or
28 the Office of Homelessness Prevention if the Homeless
29 Management Information System is transferred pursuant to
30 paragraph (2) of subsection e. of P.L.2019, c.73 (C.52:27D-287.5),
31 shall **allow** require all operators of shelters for the homeless and
32 selected local information and referral providers who place persons
33 in the shelters to **have access to** use the Homeless Management
34 Information System and to provide real-time information about the
35 occupancy status of shelter beds in the State, as collected by the
36 Homeless Management Information System, in order to determine
37 the availability of shelter beds in the community or within a certain
38 geographic area. Shelter operators shall update information in the
39 Homeless Management Information System about the availability of
40 shelter beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available,
41 or an available bed has been filled.

42 The provisions of this section shall not apply to shelters for
43 victims of domestic violence.

44 (cf: P.L.2021, c.440, s.1)

45
46 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This bill requires all organizations that provide services to
4 persons experiencing homelessness to more effectively track the
5 occupancy status of shelter beds by participating in Homeless
6 Management Information System. The Homeless Management
7 Information System is administered by the New Jersey Housing and
8 Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) but, under current law, may
9 be transferred to the Office of Homelessness Prevention (OHP).

10 This bill amends the law to require the NJHMFA, or the OHP if
11 the Homeless Management Information System is transferred, to
12 adopt rules and regulations to require all State and local agencies
13 and private organizations that provide services to persons who are
14 homeless or at risk for homelessness, to participate in the Homeless
15 Management Information System, and to delineate necessary
16 information reporting requirements as part of this participation,
17 including information concerning the occupancy status of shelter
18 beds.

19 Under the bill, the NJHMFA or the OHP, as applicable, is to
20 provide grants to those agencies and private organizations for any
21 costs associated with joining, and participating in, the Homeless
22 Management Information System. Under the bill, an agency or
23 private organization that joins and participates in the Homeless
24 Management Information System may apply for a grant on a form
25 and in such a manner as determined by the Executive Director of
26 the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency or the
27 Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention, as applicable.