

SENATE BILL 794

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CF HB 794

By: **Senator Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Planning – Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and**
3 **Young Adult Count Demonstration Project**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Planning to select a coordinating
5 entity to oversee the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young
6 Adult Count Demonstration Project; establishing the purpose of the Project;
7 requiring the coordinating entity to be selected through a competitive request
8 for proposal or by sole source contract; requiring the coordinating entity to
9 determine the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth
10 and young adults in certain jurisdictions using certain methods; requiring the
11 coordinating entity to assign each youth participant a unique identifier;
12 requiring the Department to make every effort to identify non-State sources of
13 funding to fund the cost of the Project; providing for the termination of this Act;
14 and generally relating to the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and
15 Young Adult Count Demonstration Project.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) The Department of Planning shall select a coordinating entity to oversee
19 the Maryland Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adult Count
20 Demonstration Project.

21 (b) The purpose of the Project is to:

22 (1) conduct data collection and analysis to determine the number and
23 characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in each
24 jurisdiction; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) on or before September 30, 2016, submit a report to the General
2 Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the results
3 of the Project.

4 (c) The coordinating entity shall be selected through a competitive request
5 for proposal or by sole source contract.

6 (d) The Project shall require the coordinating entity to determine the number
7 and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults in the
8 following jurisdictions:

9 (1) Anne Arundel County;

10 (2) Baltimore City; and

11 (3) Wicomico County.

12 (e) (1) To determine the number of unaccompanied homeless youth and
13 young adults in each jurisdiction, the coordinating entity shall:

14 (i) utilize data on the number of homeless students in public
15 schools reported under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

16 (ii) conduct a street count of unaccompanied homeless youth
17 and young adults;

18 (iii) survey service providers; and

19 (iv) conduct qualitative data collection, including conducting:

20 1. surveys;

21 2. focus groups; and

22 3. in–depth interviews.

23 (2) The coordinating entity shall work with local jurisdictions to tailor
24 data collection methodology used under paragraph (1) of this subsection, as
25 appropriate.

26 (3) Any survey conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
27 include a uniform set of questions but may include additional questions if the
28 additional questions are agreed on by the local jurisdictions and the coordinating
29 entity.

1 (4) The methods of data collection described under paragraph (1) of
2 this subsection shall employ promising practices, including those identified through
3 the federal Youth Count! Pilot Project, including:

- 4 (i) employing youth outreach workers;
- 5 (ii) using magnet events; and
- 6 (iii) providing stipends to encourage participation.

7 (5) Data collection conducted under this subsection shall be conducted
8 to coincide with the end of the K–12 school year and the reporting of data under the
9 federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

10 (6) To protect the anonymity of youth participants, the coordinating
11 entity shall assign each youth participant a unique identifier that does not reveal the
12 participant’s identity.

13 (f) The Department shall make every effort to identify non–State sources of
14 funding to fund the cost of the Project, including:

- 15 (1) applying for federal or university grants; and
- 16 (2) partnering with private entities to share the cost.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of
19 September 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
20 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.