

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4202

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4202.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes the “Interagency Council on Homelessness” (council) in, but not of, the Department of Community Affairs to replace the statutorily-established “New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force.”

The bill establishes the council to serve as an advisory body to the existing Office of Homelessness Prevention, to develop recommendations, through a collaborative effort among representatives of State government, providers of services to the homeless, 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 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The bill also expands membership of this advisory board.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Community Affairs to notify the members of the New Jersey Homelessness Prevention Task Force of the termination of the task force and otherwise provide for the transfer or other disposition of the records, property, and personnel of task force to the council.

As amended, this bill requires the council to prepare an annual report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and to submit the report to the Governor and to the Legislature.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 4202 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4105 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to stipulate that it is in the public interest for State policymakers, providers of services to people who are homeless, advocacy organizations, and other concerned representatives of the public to ensure the equitable distribution of resources made available through identified public and private sources of funding for

programs to meet the needs of persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness, and to require that the permanent housing solutions that are developed include supportive housing.

The committee amendments establish the “Interagency Council on Homelessness” (council) in, but not of, the Department of Community Affairs.

The committee amendments decrease the membership of the council from 26, as originally provided in the bill, to 24, by removing six of the government officials or public members to be appointed to the council.

The committee amended the bill to include the Commissioner of Transportation, the Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction in the Department of Human Services, the Attorney General, and the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, or their designees as members of the council.

The committee amendments specify that at least two of the public members on the council are to have experienced homelessness or housing instability and at least two of the public members are to have demonstrated expertise in issues relating to affordable housing development.

The committee amended the bill to specify that of the government officials or public members on the council, three are to be appointed by the Governor, three are to be appointed by the Senate President, and three are to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. As originally provided in the bill, the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the General Assembly were each required to appoint five government officials or public members.

The committee amendments require the council to prepare an annual report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations and to submit the report to the Governor and to the Legislature.

The committee amendments make technical changes involving grammar, punctuation, and syntax.