

1                                   **HOUSING AND HOMELESS AMENDMENTS**

2   2016 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck**

5   Senate Sponsor: Jim Dabakis

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9           This bill modifies provisions related to the Homeless Coordinating Committee.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11           This bill:

- 12           ▶ requires the Homeless Coordinating Committee to review data gathering and
- 13 reporting efforts related to homelessness in the state; and
- 14           ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16           None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18           None

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 AMENDS:

21           **35A-8-602**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 371

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23 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

24           Section 1. Section **35A-8-602** is amended to read:

25           **35A-8-602. Purposes of Homeless Coordinating Committee -- Uses of Pamela**  
26 **Atkinson Homeless Account.**

27           (1) (a) The Homeless Coordinating Committee shall work to ensure that services  
28 provided to the homeless by state agencies, local governments, and private organizations are  
29 provided in a cost-effective manner.

30 (b) Programs funded by the committee shall emphasize emergency housing and  
31 self-sufficiency, including placement in meaningful employment or occupational training  
32 activities and, where needed, special services to meet the unique needs of the homeless who:

- 33 (i) have families with children;
- 34 (ii) have a disability or a mental illness; or
- 35 (iii) suffer from other serious challenges to employment and self-sufficiency.

36 (c) The committee may also fund treatment programs to ameliorate the effects of  
37 substance abuse or a disability.

38 (d) Before October 1, 2016, the committee shall conduct a needs assessment or  
39 contract with another state agency or private entity to conduct a needs assessment that:

- 40 (i) identifies desired statewide outcomes related to minimizing homelessness;
- 41 (ii) reviews technology used for data gathering by state, county and local governments  
42 and private organizations for reporting information about, and providing service to, homeless  
43 individuals in the state, including an evaluation of:

- 44 (A) the functionality of existing databases;
- 45 (B) the ability to expand and tailor existing databases to better serve the needs of  
46 homeless individuals; and

47 (C) the ability of the technology to ensure proper privacy restrictions and sharing  
48 between reporting entities, including those addressing domestic violence, as allowed by federal  
49 privacy regulations;

50 (iii) identifies gaps between the data described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) and the data  
51 needed to implement best practices in minimizing homelessness and achieve the outcomes  
52 identified in accordance with this Subsection (1)(d);

53 (iv) evaluates the technical capacity of existing databases and information technology  
54 systems used to gather and report data related to homelessness and identifies improvements  
55 needed to better serve the homeless population and meet the needs of all stakeholders;

56 (v) identifies opportunities to align data gathering and reporting related to  
57 homelessness with state efforts to reduce intergenerational poverty, incarceration, and

58 recidivism rates; and

59 (vi) makes recommendations regarding the needed improvements related to this  
60 Subsection (1)(d) and outlines steps for implementing the recommendations.

61 (e) Before October 1, 2016, the committee shall report to the department the findings  
62 and recommendations of the needs assessment described in Subsection (1)(d) for inclusion in  
63 the annual written report described in Section [35A-1-109](#).

64 (2) The committee members designated in Subsection [35A-8-601](#)(2) shall:

65 (a) award contracts funded by the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Account with the advice  
66 and input of those designated in Subsection [35A-8-601](#)(3);

67 (b) consider need, diversity of geographic location, coordination with or enhancement  
68 of existing services, and the extensive use of volunteers in awarding contracts described in  
69 Subsection (2)(a); and

70 (c) give priority for funding to programs that serve the homeless who have a mental  
71 illness and who are in families with children.

72 (3) (a) In any fiscal year, no more than 80% of the funds in the Pamela Atkinson  
73 Homeless Account may be allocated to organizations that provide services only in Salt Lake,  
74 Davis, Weber, and Utah Counties.

75 (b) The committee may:

76 (i) expend up to 3% of its annual appropriation for administrative costs associated with  
77 the allocation of funds from the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Account, and up to 2% of its  
78 annual appropriation for marketing the account and soliciting donations to the account; and

79 (ii) pay for the initial costs of the State Tax Commission in implementing Section  
80 [59-10-1306](#) from the account.

81 ~~[(4)(a) The committee may not expend, except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), an~~  
82 ~~amount equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 20% of the amount donated to the Pamela Atkinson~~  
83 ~~Homeless Account during fiscal year 1988-89.]~~

84 ~~[(b)]~~ (4) If there are decreases in contributions to the account, the committee may  
85 expend money held in the account to provide program stability, but the committee shall

86 reimburse the amount of those expenditures to the account.

87           (5) The committee shall make an annual report to the department regarding the  
88 programs and services funded by contributions to the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Account for  
89 inclusion in the annual written report described in Section [35A-1-109](#).

90           (6) The state treasurer shall invest the money in the Pamela Atkinson Homeless  
91 Account according to the procedures and requirements of Title 51, Chapter 7, State Money  
92 Management Act, except that interest and other earnings derived from the restricted account  
93 shall be deposited in the restricted account.