

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 506

BY REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS AND KNOX

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HOUSING: Creates the Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness within the office of the governor

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:4(B)(37) and Chapter 3-H of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 40:600.151, relative to homelessness; to create the
4 Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness within the office of the governor;
5 to provide relative to the membership, governance, and powers and duties of the
6 council; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 36:4(B)(37) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

10 * * *

11 B.

12 * * *

13 (37) Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness

14 * * *

15 Section 2. Chapter 3-H of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
16 comprised of R.S. 40:600.151, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 CHAPTER 3-H. LOUISIANA INTERAGENCY2 COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS3 §600.151. Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness

4 A. There is hereby created, within the office of the governor, the Louisiana
5 Interagency Council on Homelessness, referred to in this Chapter as the "council",
6 for the purpose of developing a statewide plan to end homelessness in Louisiana.

7 B. The term "homelessness" for the purpose of this Chapter shall have the
8 same meaning as provided in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid
9 Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 11302).

10 C. The duties and responsibilities of the council shall include but are not
11 limited to the following:

12 (1) To develop a statewide plan to end homelessness, which shall include
13 and address the following:

14 (a) Identification and analysis of the particular challenges and barriers that
15 cause people in Louisiana to become at risk of homelessness, to experience
16 homelessness, and to be unable to return to housing.

17 (b) Assessment of factors that contribute to episodes and rates of
18 homelessness at the individual, community, and state levels.

19 (c) Proposed actions and policies to address the challenges, barriers, and
20 factors that contribute to homelessness.

21 (2) To advise the governor, legislature, and local governments as appropriate
22 on the causes of homelessness in Louisiana.

23 (3) To submit an annual written report to the governor and the legislature
24 regarding the statewide plan to end homelessness.

25 D.(1) The membership of the council shall be reflective of all geographic
26 regions of the state and shall be comprised of the following members:

27 (a) The commissioner of administration or his designee.

28 (b) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation or his
29 designee.

1 (c) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his
2 designee.

3 (d) The secretary of the Department of Education or his designee.

4 (e) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
5 designee.

6 (f) The secretary of the Department of Health or his designee.

7 (g) The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee.

8 (h) One representative from each of the federally recognized continuum of
9 care to end homelessness programs located in Louisiana appointed by the governing
10 board of each continuum of care.

11 (i) The executive director of the Louisiana Services Network Data
12 Consortium or his designee.

13 (j) The executive director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic
14 Violence or his designee.

15 (k)(i) The chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Health and
16 Welfare shall appoint six members. Three members shall be appointed by the senate
17 chairman and three members shall be appointed by the house chairman. The
18 members shall be appointed from a list of nominations submitted jointly by the
19 governing boards of the continuums of care located in Louisiana.

20 (ii) Each person appointed pursuant to this Subparagraph shall have at least
21 five years of academic or professional expertise in housing or services for people
22 experiencing homelessness with a focus in one or more of the following areas:

23 (aa) Street outreach.

24 (bb) Diversion, rapid resolution, or homeless prevention services.

25 (cc) Emergency shelter.

26 (dd) Transitional housing.

27 (ee) Rapid re-housing.

28 (ff) Permanent supportive housing.

29 (gg) Behavioral health or substance abuse disorders.

1 (hh) Homelessness as it relates to actual or perceived sexual orientation,
2 gender identity, or marital status.

3 (ii) Racial or ethnic disparities in homelessness.

4 (jj) Veterans homelessness.

5 (kk) Youth homelessness.

6 (ll) Chronic homelessness.

7 (mm) Domestic violence.

8 (l) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation shall
9 appoint at least two members with lived experience of homelessness. The members
10 shall be appointed from a list of nominations submitted jointly by the governing
11 boards of the continuums of care located in Louisiana. Each member appointed
12 pursuant to this Subparagraph shall represent as many of the following
13 subpopulations as possible:

14 (i) Youth aged twenty-four or under.

15 (ii) Veterans.

16 (iii) People experiencing or who experienced chronic homelessness.

17 (iv) People with differing actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender
18 identity, or marital status.

19 (v) Survivors of domestic violence.

20 (2) Appointed members shall serve two-year terms. Members are eligible
21 for reappointment. Any designee shall serve at the pleasure of the designating
22 authority.

23 (3) Members appointed pursuant to Subparagraphs (D)(1)(k) and (l) of this
24 Subsection shall receive a per diem for attendance at council meetings. The per diem
25 shall be paid by the Louisiana Housing Corporation.

26 (4) The council shall elect a chairman and officers from its membership.

27 (5) The council shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and at the call of
28 the chairman.

- 1 E. The Louisiana Housing Corporation shall provide support for the council,
2 including staff, facilities, and resources to facilitate remote participation in meetings
3 to the extent authorized by law.
-

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 506 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Adams

Abstract: Creates the La. Interagency Council on Homelessness within the office of the governor.

Proposed law creates the La. Interagency Council on Homelessness within the office of the governor for the purpose of developing a statewide plan to end homelessness in La.

Proposed law provides that the duties and responsibilities of the council include:

- (1) To develop a statewide plan to end homelessness.
- (2) To advise the governor, legislature, and local governments as appropriate on the causes of homelessness in La.
- (3) To submit to the governor and the legislature a report regarding the statewide plan to end homelessness.

Proposed law provides that the membership of the council be reflective of all geographic regions of the state. Provides the council shall be comprised as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of administration or his designee.
- (2) The executive director of the La. Housing Corp. or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Dept. of Education or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of the Dept. of Health or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs or his designee.
- (8) One representative from each of the continuums of care located in La. appointed by the governing boards of the continuums of care.
- (9) The executive director of the La. Services Network Data Consortium or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of the La. Coalition Against Domestic Violence or his designee.

- (11) Six members appointed by the chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare from a list of nominations submitted jointly by the governing boards of the continuums of care. Each chairman shall appoint three members. Requires members to have five years experience in housing or services for homeless persons.
- (12) At least two members appointed by the executive director of the La. Housing Corp. who have lived with experience of homelessness. Members shall be appointed from a list of nominations submitted jointly by the governing boards of the continuums of care. Provides further with respect to qualifications of members.

Proposed law provides that appointed members serve two-year terms and designees serve at the pleasure of the designating authority. Provides that members are eligible for reappointment. Additionally provides that members appointed pursuant to (11) and (12) above shall receive a per diem for attendance at council meetings to be paid by the La. Housing Corp. Provides that the La. Housing Corp. shall provide support for the council, including staff, facilities, and resources to facilitate remote participation in meetings to the extent authorized by law.

(Adds R.S. 36:4(B)(37) and R.S. 40:600.151)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Specify that the duties of the council include the development of a statewide plan to end homelessness.
2. Add the secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs or his designee to the council.
3. Specify that the La. Housing Corp. shall provide the council with resources to facilitate remote participation in meetings to the extent authorized by law.
4. Make technical changes.