



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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April 24, 2017

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 234: Interagency Council on Homelessness

On April 13, 2017, Assembly Bill 234, related to creation of an interagency council on homelessness, was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Under the bill, a 13-member Interagency Council on Homelessness would be created and attached to the Department of Administration (DOA). Membership for the Council would be as follows:

- a. Governor, or his or her designee, who serves as chairperson.
- b. Secretary of DOA, or his or her designee.
- c. Executive Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), or his or her designee.
- d. Secretary of the Department of Health Services (DHS), or his or her designee.
- e. Secretary of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), or his or her designee.
- f. Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), or his or her designee.
- g. Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), or his or her designee.
- h. Secretary of the Department of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- i. State Superintendent of Public Instruction (DPI), or his or her designee.
- j. One representative from each of the following organizations:
 1. Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care, Inc., or its successor.
 2. Milwaukee Continuum of Care, or its successor.
 3. Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine, U.A.[Urbanized Area], or its successor.
 4. Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County, or its successor.

The bill would require that the Council meet quarterly and may meet at other times on the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.

Under the bill, the Council would be required to: (a) establish and periodically review a statewide policy with the purpose of preventing and ending homelessness in Wisconsin; (b) designate individuals from each agency or organization represented on the Council to meet at least twice quarterly, to coordinate the implementation of policy established by the Council; and (c) submit a report on the activities of the Council to the Governor and to the Chief Clerk of each house of the Legislature, for distribution to the appropriate standing committees. For the report, the Council is required to determine the frequency of the report and schedule for submitting the report, but may not submit the report less frequently than annually. State agencies would be required to cooperate with the Council and individuals designated under (b) in the implementation of the policy established by the Council. [The definition of "state agency" is not defined under the bill. As such, the definition could apply not only to executive branch agencies, but also the Courts, the Legislature, and various statutorily created authorities.]

Assembly Bill 234 would require the Council to appoint an unclassified Director of the Council, to serve at the pleasure of the Council. The bill would specify that the Director be known as the State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Director would coordinate the activities of the Council and partner organizations. The salary for the Director would be established by the Council.

The bill would create an annual GPR appropriation for the Council under DOA funded at \$95,000 GPR annually with 1.0 unclassified GPR position.

Provisions of the bill would take effect on the day after publication, or on the second day after publication of the 2017 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would provide \$95,000 GPR in 2017-18 and \$95,000 GPR in 2018-19 with 1.0 unclassified GPR position in a separate annual GPR appropriation under DOA for the Interagency Council on Homelessness operations. According to the fiscal note submitted by DOA, annual funding would be for salaries and fringe benefits, \$72,600, and \$22,400 for supplies and services. The Department indicates that "current staffing resources could provide for policy implementation/coordination needs involving the Department's homelessness programming. The Department would conduct an analysis of resources needed for the proposals developed by the Council that impact the Department." The fiscal note indicates that a potential for increased costs could be absorbed within the agency's budget.

In addition to DOA's fiscal note, estimates were submitted by DHS, DCF, DVA, Corrections, and DPI and by WHEDA. The fiscal notes from the agencies indicate that either the bill would have no state fiscal effect on the agency (DCF and DVA), an indeterminate fiscal effect (WHEDA), or a potential for increased costs which could be absorbed within the agency's budget (DHS and Corrections). The Department of Public Instruction did not indicate a fiscal effect, but noted that "...the only effect on DPI will be the state superintendent of public instruction (or his or her designee) will dedicate some time to the Council for its quarterly meetings."

Prepared by: Rachel Janke