



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 204

February Session, 2022

House Bill No. 5346

House of Representatives, March 30, 2022

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. WILLIAMS of the 100th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO FUND SOCIAL WORKERS IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than June 15, 2022, the
2 Commissioner of Housing, within available appropriations and in
3 consultation with the Commissioners of Social Services, Mental Health
4 and Addiction Services and public or private agencies or nonprofit
5 organizations that operate programs for emergency shelter services,
6 shall establish a pilot program to fund social workers in emergency
7 shelters. Such pilot program shall assess the unmet needs for on-site
8 social worker services in emergency shelters in the state and provide
9 assistance to enable such shelters to recruit and retain social workers to
10 meet their needs for such on-site services for a two-year period
11 beginning on October 1, 2022.

12 (b) Not later than December 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Housing
13 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
14 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General

15 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing concerning
 16 the pilot program established pursuant to this section. The report shall
 17 include, but need not be limited to, (1) a summary of program
 18 implementation, including efforts to inform and educate eligible
 19 organizations about the program and to assist such organizations in the
 20 recruitment and retention of social workers, (2) an assessment of
 21 program utilization rates, (3) an assessment of program performance
 22 during the pilot period based on data, including, but not limited to, data
 23 concerning both the implementation of the program by the Department
 24 of Housing and the use of the program, and (4) any recommendations
 25 the commissioner may have regarding future implementation or an
 26 extension of the pilot program.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

HSG *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 23 \$ | FY 24 \$ |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Department of Housing | GF - Cost | See Below | See Below |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Housing (DOH) to establish a pilot program to fund social workers in emergency shelters. Under the bill, DOH must:

1. assess the unmet needs for on-site social worker services in emergency shelters in the state and report on the program's performance and
2. provide assistance to enable such shelters to recruit and retain social workers to meet their needs for such on-site services for a two-year period beginning on October 1, 2022.

To meet the bill's requirements, it is anticipated that DOH will contract for services from a third-party to conduct the needs assessment and administer and report on the program, as the agency does not have the necessary expertise or resources to do it in-house. Both grant costs and program administration/reporting costs will depend on the number of shelters to be included in the pilot program and the unmet needs of those shelters for social worker funding, which are both currently unknown.

For reference, the base starting salary for a state clinical social worker is \$78,147 per year and there are currently 30 homeless shelters being funded through DOH's Emergency Shelter Services Program. It is anticipated that costs would be incurred for about 2.5 years beginning in July 2022.

The Out Years

Some of the pilot program costs described above are expected to be incurred during FY 25, as the two-year funding ends October 1, 2024, and DOH must submit its report to the Housing Committee of the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

*Sources: Department of Housing
Job Classes Online Database: Department of Administrative Services*

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5346

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO FUND SOCIAL WORKERS IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)