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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5332 (as amended by House "A")\***

### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the interagency council on homelessness in statute (see BACKGROUND) and charges it with advising and assisting the Department of Housing (DOH) commissioner to improve homelessness prevention and response efforts. The council has 22 regular members and up to eight more ad hoc members as determined by the chairperson. The DOH commissioner serves as the council's chairperson. The bill requires the council to meet by October 1, 2024, and then at least quarterly (or more if requested by the DOH commissioner or a majority of the regular members).

The bill requires the council, by July 1, 2025, and then annually, to report its recommendations to the governor and the Appropriations, Housing, and Human Services committees.

\*House Amendment "A" expands the council's membership to include the legislative appointments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **COUNCIL DUTIES**

The bill specifically charges the council with doing the following:

1. considering ways to improve existing homelessness programs by coordinating policies across state agencies, including those that improve health and human services for people experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability, and create more affordable housing;
2. improving state programs that make up the homelessness

response system, including immediate assistance for people experiencing homelessness and support for emergency shelters and investments in housing stability; and

3. meeting the state’s housing demands by maximizing funding for housing assistance, increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing, improving rapid rehousing programs, and evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to support the needs of people in the state.

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

The tables below describe the council’s membership under the bill, which consists of (1) 22 regular members (10 appointed and 12 ex officio) and (2) up to eight additional ad hoc, ex officio members. Both regular and ad hoc, ex officio members may be designees.

**Table: Interagency Council on Homelessness Appointed Membership**

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Appointees and Requirements</i>
Senate president pro Tempore	One person who is experiencing or has experienced homelessness
	One representative of a continuum of care organization
House speaker	One representative of an organization that advocates for domestic violence victims or prevention
	One representative of an organization that provides shelters or housing for people experiencing homelessness
Senate majority leader	One representative of a public housing authority
House majority leader	One person with expertise in mental health or addiction treatment
Senate minority leader	One representative of local government
	One representative of a philanthropic organization
House minority leader	One representative of a faith-based organization
	One representative of a group that advocates for housing developers

**Table: Interagency Council on Homelessness Ex Officio Membership**

<i>Regular Members</i>	<i>Optional Ad Hoc Members</i>
DOH commissioner (chairperson)	Department of Developmental Services commissioner
Department of Aging and Disability Services	Department of Economic and Community

<b><i>Regular Members</i></b>	<b><i>Optional Ad Hoc Members</i></b>
commissioner	Development commissioner
Department of Children and Families commissioner	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner
Department of Correction commissioner	Department of Public Health commissioner
Department of Labor commissioner	Office of Early Childhood commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner	State Department of Education commissioner
Department of Social Services commissioner	Department of Transportation commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs commissioner	Office of Higher Education executive director
Office of Policy and Management secretary	
Judicial Department Court Support Services Division executive director	
Office of Health Strategy executive director	
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority chief executive officer	

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness***

In January 2024, Governor Lamont announced the establishment of the Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness, with a membership and charge similar to the council codified under the bill.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/07/2024)