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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- SUPPORT OF THE HOMELESS

Introduced By: Representatives Martin, Fellela, Abney, Gallison, and Casey

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 40-17-2 and 40-17-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-17
2 entitled "Support of Homeless" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-17-2. Agency established.** -- (a) There is hereby created a permanent council to be
4 called the "Interagency Council on Homelessness" consisting of ~~seventeen (17)~~ eighteen (18)
5 members and ~~one~~ two (2) ex-officio ~~member~~ members:

6 (1) One of whom shall be the chief of the office of housing and community
7 development, or his or her designee, who shall chair the Interagency Council on Homelessness;

8 (2) One of whom shall be the director of the department of administration, or his or her
9 designee;

10 (3) One of whom shall be the chair of the housing resources commission, or his or her
11 designee;

12 (4) One of whom shall be the director of the department of human services, or his or her
13 designee;

14 (5) One of whom shall be the director of the department of health, or his or her designee;

15 (6) One of whom shall be the director of the department of children, youth, and families,
16 or his or her designee;

17 (7) One of whom shall be the director of elderly affairs, or his or her designee;

18 (8) One of whom shall be the director of behavioral healthcare, developmental
19 disabilities and hospitals, or his or her designee;

1 (9) One of whom shall be director of the department of labor and training, or his or her
2 designee;

3 (10) One of whom shall be the director of the department of corrections, or his or her
4 designee;

5 (11) One of whom shall be the commissioner of the department of elementary or
6 secondary education, or his or her designee;

7 (12) One of whom shall be the director of the Rhode Island housing and mortgage
8 finance corporation, or his or her designee;

9 (13) One of whom shall be the director of emergency management agency, or his or her
10 designee;

11 (14) One of whom shall be a representative from the Rhode Island division/department
12 of veterans' affairs or his or her designee;

13 (15) One of whom shall be the public defender, or his or her designee;

14 (16) One of whom shall be the Medicaid director within the department of human
15 services, or his or her designee; ~~and~~

16 (17) One of whom shall be the secretary of the executive office of health and human
17 services, or his or her designee; ~~and~~

18 (18) One of whom shall be the Lieutenant Governor, or his or her designee;

19 (19) One of whom shall be an ex-officio member who shall be from the Providence
20 Veterans Administration Medical Center who specializes in health care for homeless veterans;
21 and

22 ~~(18)~~(20) One of whom shall be an ex-officio member who shall be the chair, or his or her
23 designee, of the Interagency Council on Homelessness Advisory Council as described in this
24 chapter herein.

25 (b) Forthwith upon the effective date of this chapter, the members of the commission
26 shall meet at the call of the chair and organize. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in like
27 manner as the original appointment.

28 (c) The department of administration is hereby directed to provide suitable quarters and
29 staff for the commission.

30 (d) All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
31 documentary, and otherwise to the commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable
32 by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.

33 **40-17-5. Advisory council established.** -- (a) There is hereby created a permanent
34 advisory council to the Interagency Council on Homelessness containing ~~equal~~ representation of

1 advocates, service providers, members of the veteran community including housing providers and
2 a current or former homeless veteran, current and/or former members of the homeless
3 community, as well as representatives specifically affiliated with youth homelessness ~~to be~~
4 ~~appointed by the governor.~~ All new members shall be chosen and approved by majority vote of
5 the members present at an official meeting. At no time shall there be less than three (3)
6 representatives of the homeless community, current or former. The chair shall be elected by a
7 majority of the members.

8 (b) The purpose of the council is to inform the Interagency Council on Homelessness on
9 the current status and issues facing the homeless throughout Rhode Island.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would add two (2) additional members to the interagency council on
2 homelessness, and would require that all new members be chosen and approved by a majority of
3 the members present at an official meeting. The act would also require that there be at least three
4 (3) representatives of the homeless community chosen and present at official meetings.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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