

Senate Bill No. 1220

An act relating to homelessness; creating the Commission on the Homeless within the Executive Office of the Governor; providing for membership of the commission; requiring the commission to review the problems of the homeless and propose solutions for reducing homelessness; requiring the commission to hold a specified number of public meetings; providing requirements for a written report by the commission; providing for commission members to be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses; authorizing the commission to employ an executive director; abolishing the commission after a specified date; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Commission on the Homeless.—

(1)(a) The Commission on the Homeless is created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The commission shall be composed of 24 members, of which eight members shall be appointed by the Governor, five members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Children and Family Services, the Secretary of Community Affairs, the Executive Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Executive Director of the Housing Finance Corporation shall personally serve as voting members of the commission. The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as chairperson of the commission.

(b) The appointments must be made within 30 days after the effective date of the act, and the commission shall hold its first meeting within 45 days after the effective date of the act. Any vacancy that occurs on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) Members of the commission are entitled to one vote each, and an action of the commission is not binding unless a majority of the total number of votes that are cast are votes in favor of the action. The commission may not take action unless a majority of the commission members are present at a meeting.

(3) The commission shall review the problems of the homeless in this state and propose solutions for reducing homelessness and improving the provision of social services to the homeless. The commission shall investigate the following issues:

(a) The causes leading to homelessness.

(b) The provision of shelter and affordable housing for the homeless.

(c) The availability and provision of health care for the homeless.

- (d) Services for homeless families and their children.
- (e) Mental health services for the homeless.
- (f) Crimes committed against the homeless.
- (g) Drug-treatment and prevention services for the homeless.
- (h) The accessibility of the WAGES Program and other entitlement programs to the homeless.
- (i) The policies of the state and local governments with respect to the homeless.
- (j) Ways in which current government programs could be adapted to better serve the needs of the homeless.
- (k) Ways to assist the private sector in providing services for the homeless.
- (l) National and state inclinations or tendencies of the homeless.
- (m) Review the problems and propose solutions for relieving homelessness among veterans.
- (4) The commission shall hold at least four public hearings throughout the state to solicit input from the public and appropriate experts on the problems of the homeless.
- (5) The commission shall, by January 1, 2001, provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written report that contains specific recommendations for addressing the problems of the homeless. The recommendations of the task force must include proposed legislation.
- (6) Commission members shall not receive remuneration for their services, but members other than public officers and employees are entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with section 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- (7) The commission may employ an executive director, who shall receive supplemental financial and other assistance from other agencies under the Governor's direct supervision. The Executive Office of the Governor shall provide additional assistance as appropriate.
- (8) The commission shall continue in existence until its objectives are achieved, but not later than January 31, 2001.

Section 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of paying the administrative expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2000.