

1 AN ACT concerning homeless youth.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Youth
5 Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that 1 in 10 young people ages 18-25 experience a form of
8 homelessness over a 12-month period. Also 1 in 30 youths ages
9 13-17 experience a form of homelessness over a 12-month period.
10 Homelessness disproportionately impacts African-American youth
11 and mirrors the racial disparities in school suspensions,
12 incarceration rates, and foster care placement. Youth who have
13 interacted with State systems of care, such as the Department
14 of Children and Family Services, the Department of Juvenile
15 Justice, the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental
16 Health, and the Department of Corrections, and youth who have
17 been hospitalized for mental health problems are
18 disproportionately overrepresented in the population of people
19 experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Education
20 classifies youth living "doubled up" as homeless. "Doubled up"
21 is a term that refers to a situation where individuals are
22 unable to maintain their own housing situation and are forced
23 to stay with a series of friends or extended family members.

1 The individual has no right or authority over the housing. The
2 "homes" of such individuals are often unstable, not permanent,
3 and can be as dangerous as living on the streets. As a result,
4 doubled up housing situations are potentially detrimental to
5 the health and well-being of these homeless youth. A study
6 conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found that
7 12% of prisoners were homeless at the time of their arrest.
8 Similarly, a national survey of jail inmates concluded that
9 more than 15% of the jail population had been homeless at some
10 point in the preceding year, a rate 8 to 11 times the national
11 average. Illinois needs a cohesive strategy across our child
12 welfare, mental health, corrections, and human services
13 agencies that is designed to reduce the rates of homelessness
14 among youth and to lessen the likelihood of youth experiencing
15 chronic homelessness into adulthood.

16 Section 10. Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee. In
17 2016 the Governor, by Executive Order, created a Governor's
18 Cabinet on Children and Youth to ensure that all children and
19 youth in Illinois are healthy, safe, well-educated, and
20 successfully launched into self-sufficiency. To better serve
21 youth leaving State systems of care and to bring Illinois in
22 line with the national goal of ending youth homelessness by
23 2020, the Cabinet on Children and Youth shall create a
24 subcommittee to drive the State's strategic vision for
25 preventing homelessness among youth leaving State systems of

1 care. The subcommittee shall be known as the Youth Homelessness
2 Prevention Subcommittee.

3 Section 15. Duties. The Youth Homelessness Prevention
4 Subcommittee shall:

5 (1) Review the discharge planning, service plans, and
6 discharge procedures for youth leaving the custody or
7 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family
8 Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
9 Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health,
10 and the Department of Corrections to determine whether such
11 discharge planning and procedures ensure housing stability
12 for youth leaving State systems of care.

13 (2) Collect data on the housing stability of youth for
14 one year after they are released from the custody or
15 guardianship of the Department of Children and Family
16 Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
17 Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health, or
18 the Department of Corrections.

19 (3) Based on data collected under paragraph (2)
20 regarding youth experiencing homelessness after leaving
21 State systems of care, create a plan to improve discharge
22 policies and procedures to ensure housing stability for
23 youth leaving State systems of care.

24 (4) Provide recommendations on community plans for
25 sustainable housing; create education and employment plans

1 for homeless youth; and create strategic collaborations
2 between the Department of Children and Family Services, the
3 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Human
4 Services' Division of Mental Health, and the Department of
5 Corrections with respect to youth leaving State systems of
6 care.

7 Section 20. Membership. The Youth Homelessness Prevention
8 Subcommittee shall include the following members:

9 (1) One representative from the Governor's office.

10 (2) The Director of the Department of Children and
11 Family Services.

12 (3) The Director of the Department of Healthcare and
13 Family Services.

14 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

15 (5) The Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

16 (6) The Director of the Department of Corrections.

17 (7) The Director of the Department of Public Health.

18 (8) The Director of the Guardianship and Advocacy
19 Commission.

20 (9) Four representatives from agencies serving
21 homeless youth.

22 (10) One representative from a homeless advocacy
23 organization.

24 (11) One representative from a juvenile justice
25 advocacy organization.

1 (12) Four youth who have a lived experience with
2 homelessness.

3 Section 25. Quorum. A majority of the members of the
4 Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum, and all
5 recommendations of the Subcommittee shall require approval of a
6 majority of the total members of the Subcommittee.

7 Section 30. Administrative support. The Governor's Office
8 shall provide administrative support to the Youth Homelessness
9 Prevention Subcommittee as needed, including with respect to
10 compliance with State ethics laws, the Open Meetings Act, and
11 the Freedom of Information Act.

12 Section 35. Meetings. The Youth Homelessness Prevention
13 Subcommittee shall hold at least 6 meetings each year, but
14 otherwise shall meet at the call of the chair.

15 Section 40. Reports. The Youth Homelessness Prevention
16 Subcommittee shall submit an interim report to the Governor
17 every 6 months and an annual report to the Governor and the
18 General Assembly.