

SENATE, No. 1530

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide database of beds in shelters for the homeless.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/14/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.530 (C.55:14K-1 et seq.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
8 shall allow operators of shelters for the homeless and selected local
9 information and referral providers who place persons in the shelters
10 to have access to real-time information about the occupancy status
11 of shelter beds in the State as collected by the Homeless
12 Management Information System (HMIS), in order to determine the
13 availability of shelter beds in the community or within a certain
14 geographic area.

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16 2. A shelter for the homeless, which is subject to regulation by
17 the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:15-1.1
18 et seq., shall cooperate in providing any necessary information to
19 the database, as determined by the New Jersey Housing and
20 Mortgage Finance Agency, the Department of Community Affairs,
21 and the Department of Human Services, as a condition of being
22 eligible to receive funding for the shelter from the Department of
23 Community Affairs and the Department of Human Services.

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25 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following
26 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill would require the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage
32 Finance Agency (HMFA) to allow operators of shelters for the
33 homeless and others who place persons in homeless shelters to have
34 access to real-time information about the occupancy status of
35 shelter beds, as collected by the Homeless Management Information
36 System (HMIS), to determine the availability of shelter beds in the
37 vicinity. This will allow operators of homeless shelters that are
38 currently full to ascertain whether there are available beds in nearby
39 shelters so as to enable them to direct individuals in need of
40 emergency shelter to locations that can accommodate them.

41 This bill also requires a shelter for the homeless to cooperate in
42 providing any necessary information to the database, as determined
43 by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, the
44 Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of Human
45 Services, as a condition of being eligible to receive funding for the
46 shelter from the Departments of Community Affairs and Human
47 Services.