ASSEMBLY, No. 2186

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:
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SYNOPSIS
   Establishes Statewide database of beds in shelters for the homeless.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
   Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2   supplementing P.L.1983, c.530 (C.55:14K-1 et seq.).
3
4   BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6
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, in order to determine the
13 availability of shelter beds in the community or within a certain
14 geographic area.   Shelter operators shall update information in the
15 Homeless Management Information System about the availability of
16 shelter beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available,
17 or an available bed has been filled.
18   The provisions of this section shall not apply to shelters for
19 victims of domestic violence.
20
21   2.   A shelter for the homeless, except a shelter for victims of
22 domestic violence, which is subject to regulation by the Department of
23 Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:15-1.1 et seq., shall
24 cooperate in providing any necessary information to the database, as
25 determined by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance
26 Agency, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of
27 Human Services, as a condition of being eligible to receive funding for
28 the shelter from the Department of Community Affairs and the
29 Department of Human Services.
30   A shelter operator shall update information in the Homeless
31 Management Information System about the availability of shelter
32 beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available, or an
33 available bed has been filled.
34
35   3.   This act shall take effect on the 60th day following
36 enactment.
37
38
39   STATEMENT
40
41   This bill would require the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage
42 Finance Agency (HMFA) to allow certain homeless shelter
43 personnel to have access to real-time information about the
44 occupancy status of shelter beds, as collected by the Homeless
45 Management Information System.   The information would be used
46 to determine the availability of shelter beds in the nearby area.
47 Specifically, the information would be made available to the

1   operators of shelters for the homeless and selected local providers
2   who place persons in homeless shelters.
3   Under the bill, each homeless shelter operator would be required
4   to update information about available shelter beds not later than one
5   hour after a bed becomes available or occupied. Additionally, each
6   shelter for the homeless would be required to provide any necessary
7   information, as determined by the HMFA, the Department of
8   Community Affairs, and the Department of Human Services, in
9   order to be eligible for funding from the Department of Community
10   Affairs and the Department of Human Services.
11   The bill would not apply to shelters for victims of domestic
12   violence.