

1 Introduced by Committee on General and Housing

2 Date:

3 Subject: Housing; human services; crisis standards of housing

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
5 Department for Children and Families to develop a plan to implement crisis  
6 standards for housing. It would further propose to require the Agency of  
7 Human Services to convene a working group to produce a homelessness  
8 response systems analysis.

9 An act relating to crisis standards of housing and a homelessness response  
10 systems analysis

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. CRISIS STANDARDS OF HOUSING

13 On or before December 1, 2023, the Department for Children and Families  
14 shall develop and submit a plan to implement crisis standards for housing to  
15 the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and to  
16 the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General  
17 Affairs and on Health and Welfare. In developing the plan, the Department  
18 shall consult with Vermont Legal Aid, the Vermont Coalition to End  
19 Homelessness, and the Champlain Housing Trust and review the Vermont

1 Roadmap to End Homelessness developed pursuant to 2016 Acts and Resolves  
2 No. 172, Sec. B.1102(a).

3 Sec. 2. HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

4 (a) On or before September 1, 2023, the Agency of Human Services shall  
5 convene a working group, including individuals with lived experience of  
6 homelessness, local and statewide representatives of the Continuums of Care  
7 Program, representatives of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and  
8 representatives of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, to review,  
9 develop, and provide recommendations on Vermont’s homelessness response  
10 and prevention programs and governance system, including any success  
11 measures that incorporate recent and relevant assessments and statewide plans.

12 (b) On or before January 15, 2024, the working group established pursuant  
13 to subsection (a) of this section shall submit its findings and recommendations  
14 to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and  
15 to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Economic  
16 Development, Housing and General Affairs to align with the federal goal to  
17 reduce homelessness by 25 percent by 2025, in accordance with the Federal  
18 Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, including strategies to:

19 (1) address racial and other disparities among people experiencing  
20 homelessness;

1           (2) justify State and local action through research of quantitative and  
2           qualitative data, including the perspectives of individuals who have or are  
3           currently experiencing homelessness;

4           (3) eliminate the silos between State and local governments and  
5           organizations; public, private, and philanthropic sectors; and individuals who  
6           have or are currently experiencing homelessness;

7           (4) increase the supply of and access to safe, affordable, and accessible  
8           housing and tailored supports for individuals at risk of or currently  
9           experiencing homelessness;

10           (5) improve response systems to meet the urgent crisis of homelessness,  
11           especially unsheltered homelessness; and

12           (6) reduce the risk of housing instability for households most likely to  
13           experience homelessness.

14           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15           This act shall take effect on passage.