
This summary is of a bill that was vetoed by the Governor and may be reconsidered by the General Assembly prior to final adjournment of the 2025–2026 legislative session. This summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly; it provides a general summary of the bill and may not be exhaustive. This summary has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly and is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

H.91 (Vetoed). Human services; housing; emergency shelter

This bill would have established the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing (VHEARTH) Program to replace emergency housing provided through the General Assistance Program and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program. The VHEARTH Program would have provided supportive services, extreme weather event shelters, and emergency shelter to households experiencing homelessness. Beginning in fiscal year 2027, services would have been provided by or caused to be provided by the community action agencies and an organization with specialized experience serving households that have or are currently experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

This bill would have required the Department for Children and Families and various community partners to develop plans for the implementation of the VHEARTH Program beginning in fiscal year 2026. The required implementation plans would have required the Department and community partners to report back to the General Assembly on issues such as proposed performance measures, eligibility for VHEARTH services, intake and assessment procedures, funding allocations, and household participation in case management services. This bill would have also required the community action agencies and an organization with specialized experience serving households that have or are currently experiencing domestic or sexual violence to submit interim and final needs assessments to the General Assembly.

This bill would have appropriated \$7 million in fiscal year 2026 to fund the transition from emergency housing through the General Assistance Program and the Housing Opportunity Grant Program to the VHEARTH Program. It would have allowed the Department to implement specific elements of the VHEARTH Program prior to fiscal year 2027, where certain conditions were met.

Vetoed by the Governor: June 11, 2025

Effective Date: Not applicable