



# H.938: An act relating to establishing the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum

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# H.938: Alignment w/ Agency's Proposal

- Generally, remains within the Governor's Recommended Budget (dollar amount).
- Attempts to tailor services to the diverse needs of Vermont's unhoused population.
- Expands and creates specialized shelters for vulnerable populations.

# Internal Progress & Updates

- Continued investment in diverse shelter options.
  - Recovery-oriented shelter expansion
  - Development of Medically Vulnerable shelter proposal
- Implementation/Evolution of Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program (ECWSP)
- Ongoing shelter development
- Internal development of clinical criteria to assist in sheltering triage
- Strategic planning process

**Despite broad alignment, there are still several areas of the bill that are unworkable for the Department as written.**

**\*\*This presentation is not inclusive of all feedback**

# Administration of Program

- H.938 moves administration of the hotel program to the Office of Economic Opportunity.

**Recommendation:** Leave administrative decisions at the Department level. Reinstate 21 ESD positions to manage eligibility/admin and the proposed hotel/motel staffing.

# Funding Allocation

- H.938 reduces investments in shelter development, specialized shelters, operations compared to Gov. Rec.
- ECWSP was moved to one time instead of base.
- Permanent Supportive Housing was reduced by \$82.5K GF
- **Recommendation:** Allocate funds according to the Governor's Recommended budget.

# Eligibility and Prioritization

- Institutes broad eligibility and prioritization criteria for all service levels of the proposed Continuum.

**Recommendation:** Limit prioritization to hotel program, propose alternative eligibility criteria for that component of the program.

# Definitions

- A number of definitions lack clarity and could lead to inconsistency for both service providers and program participants.

**Recommendation:** Develop alternative definitions. We have shared proposed definitions with Legislative Counsel

# Human Services Board Appeals

- Authorizes extreme overreach of HSB
- Forces policy/practice for Department and partners (after twenty identical decisions).
- Additional impacts

**Recommendation:** Strike this section

# Accessibility Requests

**To receive this information in an alternative format or for other accessibility requests, please contact:**

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