



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 58

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 6894

House of Representatives, March 6, 2025

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. FELIPE of the 130th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
2 interagency council on homelessness to advise and assist the
3 Commissioner of Housing in improving homelessness prevention and
4 response efforts in the state.

5 (b) The council shall consist of the following regular members, or
6 their designees: (1) The Commissioner of Housing; (2) the
7 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services; (3) the Commissioner
8 of Children and Families; (4) the Commissioner of Correction; (5) the
9 Labor Commissioner; (6) the Commissioner of Mental Health and
10 Addiction Services; (7) the Commissioner of Social Services; (8) the
11 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs; (9) the Secretary of the Office of
12 Policy and Management; (10) the executive director of the Court
13 Support Services Division of the Judicial Department; and (11) the
14 executive director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

15 (c) In addition to the regular members set forth in subsection (b) of
16 this section, the council may consist of the following ad hoc members,
17 as determined by the chairperson, or their designees: (1) The
18 Commissioner of Developmental Services; (2) the Commissioner of
19 Economic and Community Development; (3) the Commissioner of
20 Emergency Services and Public Protection; (4) the Commissioner of
21 Public Health; (5) the Commissioner of Early Childhood; (6) the
22 Commissioner of Education; (7) the Commissioner of Transportation;
23 and (8) the Commissioner of Higher Education.

24 (d) The chairperson of the council shall be the Commissioner of
25 Housing.

26 (e) The council shall convene on or before October 1, 2025, and shall
27 meet quarterly thereafter, and more often upon the call of the
28 chairperson or a majority of the regular members, to (1) consider
29 methods to strengthen existing programs designed to prevent
30 homelessness by coordinating policies across state agencies, including,
31 but not limited to, policies that improve health and human services for
32 persons experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability for
33 individuals and create more affordable housing in the state; (2) improve
34 the effectiveness of state programs that constitute the homelessness
35 response system, including immediate assistance for persons
36 experiencing homelessness and support for emergency shelters and
37 investments in housing stability for individuals; and (3) meet housing
38 demands in the state by maximizing the use of funding for housing
39 assistance, increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing,
40 improving the effectiveness of rapid rehousing programs and
41 evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and
42 affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to support
43 the needs of individuals in the state.

44 (f) On or before July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the council shall
45 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
46 statutes, a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of
47 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to

48 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, housing and human
49 services on the recommendations of the council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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HSG *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which codifies the recently established interagency council on homelessness, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.¹ The members of the council have the necessary expertise to report recommendations by July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ Governor Lamont Announces Formation of the Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness, January 12, 2024, Press Release

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6894*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an interagency council on homelessness in statute (see BACKGROUND) and charges it with advising and assisting the Department of Housing (DOH) commissioner to improve homelessness prevention and response efforts. The council has 11 regular members and up to eight more ad hoc members as determined by its chairperson (the DOH commissioner). The bill requires the council to meet by October 1, 2025, and then at least quarterly (or more if requested by the DOH commissioner or a majority of the regular members).

The bill requires the council, starting by July 1, 2026, to annually report its recommendations to the governor and the Appropriations, Housing, and Human Services committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COUNCIL DUTIES

The bill specifically charges the council with doing the following:

1. considering ways to improve existing homelessness programs by coordinating policies across state agencies, including those that improve health and human services for people experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability, and create more affordable housing;
2. improving state programs in the homelessness response system, including immediate assistance for people experiencing homelessness, support for emergency shelters, and investments in housing stability; and

3. meeting the state's housing demands by maximizing funding for housing assistance, increasing the permanent supportive housing supply, improving rapid rehousing programs, and evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to support the needs of people in the state.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The table below describes the council's membership under the bill. Both regular and ad hoc members may be designees.

Table: Interagency Council on Homelessness Membership

<i>Regular Members</i>	<i>Optional Ad Hoc Members</i>
DOH commissioner (chairperson)	Department of Developmental Services commissioner
Department of Aging and Disability Services commissioner	Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner
Department of Children and Families commissioner	Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner
Department of Correction commissioner	Department of Public Health commissioner
Department of Labor commissioner	Office of Early Childhood commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner	State Department of Education commissioner
Department of Social Services commissioner	Department of Transportation commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs commissioner	Office of Higher Education commissioner
Office of Policy and Management secretary	
Judicial Department Court Support Services Division executive director	
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority executive director	

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness

In January 2024, Governor Lamont announced the establishment of the Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness, with a membership and charge very similar to the council codified under the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/20/2025)