



House of Representatives

File No. 924

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 58)

House Bill No. 6894
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 15, 2025

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:

6 (1) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
7 whom is an individual who is experiencing or has experienced
8 homelessness and one of whom is a representative of a continuum of
9 care organization;

10 (2) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
11 one of whom is a representative of an organization that advocates for
12 victims of domestic violence or domestic violence prevention and one

13 of whom is a representative of an organization that provides shelters or
14 housing for individuals experiencing homelessness;

15 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
16 representative of a public housing authority;

17 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives, who has expertise in mental health or addiction
19 treatment;

20 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
21 is a representative of local government and one of whom is a
22 representative of a philanthropic organization;

23 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
24 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of a faith-based
25 organization and one of whom is a representative of a group that
26 advocates for housing developers;

27 (7) Two appointed by the Commissioner of Housing;

28 (8) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee;

29 (9) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the
30 commissioner's designee;

31 (10) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
32 commissioner's designee;

33 (11) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's
34 designee;

35 (12) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

36 (13) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
37 the commissioner's designee;

38 (14) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
39 designee;

40 (15) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's
41 designee;

42 (16) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
43 secretary's designee;

44 (17) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of
45 the Judicial Department, or the executive director's designee;

46 (18) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the
47 executive director's designee;

48 (19) The chief executive officer of the Connecticut Housing Finance
49 Authority, or the chief executive officer's designee; and

50 (20) The Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

51 (c) In addition to the regular members set forth in subsection (b) of
52 this section, the council may consist of the following ad hoc members,
53 as determined by the chairperson, or their designees: (1) The
54 Commissioner of Developmental Services; (2) the Commissioner of
55 Economic and Community Development; (3) the Commissioner of
56 Emergency Services and Public Protection; (4) the Commissioner of
57 Public Health; (5) the Commissioner of Early Childhood; (6) the
58 Commissioner of Education; (7) the Commissioner of Transportation;
59 and (8) the Commissioner of Higher Education.

60 (d) The chairperson of the council shall be the Commissioner of
61 Housing.

62 (e) The council shall convene on or before October 1, 2025, and shall
63 meet thereafter upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of the
64 regular members, to (1) consider methods to strengthen existing
65 programs designed to prevent homelessness by coordinating policies
66 across state agencies, including, but not limited to, policies that improve
67 health and human services for persons experiencing homelessness,
68 increase housing stability for individuals and create more affordable
69 housing in the state; (2) improve the effectiveness of state programs that

70 constitute the homelessness response system, including immediate
71 assistance for persons experiencing homelessness and support for
72 emergency shelters and investments in housing stability for individuals;
73 and (3) meet housing demands in the state by maximizing the use of
74 funding for housing assistance, increasing the supply of permanent
75 supportive housing, improving the effectiveness of rapid rehousing
76 programs and evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to
77 safe and affordable housing with an interagency approach designed to
78 support the needs of individuals in the state.

79 (f) On or before July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the council shall
80 submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
81 statutes, a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of
82 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
83 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, housing and human
84 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

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.

House "A" expands the membership of the council and changes the frequency at which the council meets and does not result in a fiscal impact.

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 (as amended by House "A")******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 25 regular members (13 ex officio and 12 appointed) and up to eight more ad hoc members as determined by its chairperson (the DOH commissioner). The bill requires the council to convene by October 1, 2025, and to meet at the request of the DOH commissioner or a majority of the regular members.

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

*House Amendment "A" (1) increases the council's membership by adding as regular members the Office of Health Strategy executive director, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and 12 appointed members and (2) eliminates a provision requiring the council to meet at least quarterly.

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 membership under the bill. Ad hoc members and regular ex officio members, with the exception of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, may be designees.

Table: Interagency Council on Homelessness Membership

<i>Regular Members</i>	
<i>Ex Officio</i>	<i>Appointments</i>
DOH commissioner (chairperson)	DOH commissioner: two appointments
Department of Aging and Disability Services commissioner	Senate president pro tempore: two appointments; one who is a person experiencing (or that has previously experienced) homelessness and one who represents a continuum of care organization
Department of Children and Families commissioner	House speaker: two appointments; one who represents an organization advocating for domestic violence victims or prevention and one who represents an organization providing shelters or housing for people experiencing homelessness
Department of Correction commissioner	Senate majority leader: one appointment who is a representative of a public housing authority

Regular Members	
Ex Officio	Appointments
Department of Labor commissioner	House majority leader: one appointment with expertise in mental health or addiction treatment
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services commissioner	Senate minority leader: two appointments; one who represents local government and one who represents a philanthropic organization
Department of Social Services commissioner	House minority leader: two appointments; one who represents a faith-based organization and one who represents a group advocating for housing developers
Department of Veterans Affairs commissioner	
Office of Policy and Management secretary	
Judicial Department Court Support Services Division executive director	
Office of Health Strategy executive director	
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority chief executive officer	
Long-Term Care Ombudsman	
Optional Ad Hoc Members	
Department of Developmental Services commissioner	
Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner	
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner	
Department of Public Health commissioner	
Office of Early Childhood commissioner	
State Department of Education commissioner	
Department of Transportation commissioner	
Office of Higher Education commissioner	

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Interagency Council on Homelessness

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/20/2025)