



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7033

LCO No. 4944



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING A MUNICIPALITY FROM IMPOSING ANY
PENALTY ON HOMELESS PERSONS FOR PERFORMING LIFE-
SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES ON PUBLIC LAND.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Homeless person" has the same meaning as provided in 42 USC
- 3 11302, as amended from time to time;
- 4 (2) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-1
- 5 of the general statutes;
- 6 (3) "Public land" means any property that is owned or leased, in
- 7 whole or in part, by any state or local government entity or any property
- 8 upon which there is an easement for public use and that is held open to
- 9 the public, or any federal land where local law enforcement has
- 10 jurisdiction to enforce local laws, including, but not limited to, plazas,
- 11 courtyards, parking lots, sidewalks, public transportation facilities and
- 12 services, public buildings, shopping centers, underpasses and lands
- 13 adjacent to roadways and parks;

14 (4) "Recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in
15 section 14-1 of the general statutes;

16 (5) "Life sustaining activities" includes, but is not limited to, moving,
17 resting, sitting, standing, lying down, sleeping, protecting oneself from
18 the elements, eating, drinking and storing such personal property as
19 needed to safely shelter oneself; and

20 (6) "Adequate alternative indoor space" means a space that is legally
21 and physically accessible to an individual and that does not require such
22 individual to sacrifice any other personal right afforded to such
23 individual under federal, state or local law.

24 (b) No municipality may enact any ordinance and no individual may
25 take any action that infringes upon the right of homeless persons to use
26 public spaces without discrimination based on housing status in
27 accordance with this section, including the right to: (1) Conduct life
28 sustaining activities on public land, provided such activities do not
29 obstruct the normal movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic in such
30 a manner that creates a hazard to others, or on private property with the
31 permission of the property owner, unless sufficient adequate alternative
32 indoor space is available to the homeless persons in a given jurisdiction
33 and has been offered to the individual, including transportation for the
34 individual and such individual's belongings; (2) use and move freely in
35 places of public accommodation without discrimination based on actual
36 or perceived housing status; (3) be free from civil or criminal sanctions
37 for soliciting, sharing, accepting or offering food, water, money or other
38 donations in public places; (4) privacy of one's personal property stored
39 in public places to the same degree of privacy as property in a private
40 dwelling, which shall not be subject to unreasonable search and seizure;
41 (5) pray, meditate, worship or practice religion in public spaces without
42 discrimination based on housing status; and (6) occupy a motor vehicle
43 or a recreational vehicle, provided such vehicle is parked (A) on public
44 property and is not parked in a position that obstructs the normal
45 movement of traffic or creates a hazard to other traffic upon the

46 highway, or (B) on private property with the permission of the private
47 property owner.

48 (c) Any person or municipality that violates any provision of this
49 section shall be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed ____ dollars, to be
50 fixed by the court, for each offense. The Attorney General, upon the
51 request of any aggrieved person, shall institute a civil action in the
52 Superior Court to recover such penalty.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit a municipality from imposing any penalty on homeless persons for performing life sustaining activities on public land.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]