



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 161

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5260

House of Representatives, March 25, 2026

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 PROHIBITING A MUNICIPALITY FROM IMPOSING A PENALTY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (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 place" means publicly accessible land owned or managed
7 by a municipality. "Public place" does not include the interior area of a
8 structure located on publicly accessible land, any real property owned
9 by the state and in the custody of the Department of Transportation,
10 commercial airports or parcels of land containing a school;

11 (4) "Recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in

12 section 14-1 of the general statutes;

13 (5) "School" means nursery schools, kindergarten and grades one to
14 twelve, inclusive; and

15 (6) "Municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-148
16 of the general statutes.

17 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-148 of the general
18 statutes, no municipality may enact or enforce any ordinance that
19 prohibits a homeless person's ability to:

20 (1) Use or move freely in public places in the same manner as other
21 persons;

22 (2) Occupy or sleep in a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle that is
23 legally parked in a public place;

24 (3) Use any publicly accessible hygiene facility in the same manner as
25 other persons; or

26 (4) Perform the following activities in a public place: (A) Sleep or rest;
27 (B) eat or drink; (C) protect himself or herself from the elements; (D)
28 access medical care; or (E) solicit food, water, money or other donations.

29 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a
30 municipality from enacting or enforcing an ordinance to prohibit
31 activities that endanger or are likely to endanger the health, welfare or
32 safety of the public.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section

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 prohibits municipalities from adopting or enforcing ordinances that prohibit a homeless person from certain activities, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5260*****AN ACT PROHIBITING A MUNICIPALITY FROM IMPOSING A PENALTY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill generally prohibits municipalities from adopting or enforcing ordinances that prohibit a homeless person from using municipally controlled publicly accessible outdoor areas for certain activities. These activities include, among others, eating or resting; sleeping in a legally parked vehicle; soliciting donations; and accessing medical care. The bill allows municipalities to adopt or enforce ordinances if necessary to prevent a danger or likely danger to public health, welfare, or safety.

The bill uses the same broad definition of “homeless person” that applies in federal laws on the Interagency Council on Homelessness and certain homelessness response programs. The term refers to, among others, people (1) who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; (2) with a primary nighttime residence not designed for use as a regular sleeping place (such as a car, park, or transit station); (3) who reside in a shelter or similar temporary living arrangement; or (4) imminently at risk of losing their housing. It also broadly includes children and domestic violence victims lacking safe or stable housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

PROTECTED ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC PLACES***Public Places***

Generally, the bill’s restriction on ordinances affecting homeless people applies to activities in “public places.” This means land that is (1) municipally owned or managed and (2) publicly accessible. The bill

specifies that public places do not include:

1. the interior areas of a structure,
2. state-owned property in the custody of the Department of Transportation,
3. commercial airports, or
4. land containing a nursery or K-12 school.

Covered Activities

The bill lists activities that a municipality cannot stop homeless people from doing in public places, if they can be done safely:

1. using public places freely like other people can (for example, walking through them);
2. sleeping, resting, eating, drinking, and accessing medical care;
3. soliciting food, water, money, or other donations;
4. protecting themselves from the elements; and
5. occupying or sleeping in a legally parked vehicle (like a car or camper).

The bill also generally prohibits municipalities from stopping homeless people from using publicly accessible hygiene facilities, if other people are allowed to use them.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5235, favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, requires the Department of Transportation, (1) before removing an encampment located on a state highway right-of-way or state-owned property under its control, to generally give at least 14 days' written notice to occupants, and (2) jointly with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, to study and make recommendations on

best practices for responding to, managing, or removing an encampment.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/10/2026)