MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2013

TO: County Council

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
             Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: **Introduction:** Bill 34-13, Interagency Commission on Homelessness - Established

Bill 34-13, Interagency Commission on Homelessness - Established, sponsored by Council Vice-President Leventhal, is scheduled to be introduced on December 10, 2013. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 34-13 would establish an Interagency Commission on Homelessness and establish the membership and duties of the Commission.

This packet contains:	Circle #
Bill 34-13	1
Legislative Request Report	7

F:\LAW\BILLS\1334 Interagency Commission On Homelessness\Intro Memo.Doc

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Vice-President Leventhal

AN ACT to:

    (1)   establish an Interagency Commission on Homelessness;

    (2)   establish the membership and duties of the Commission; and

    (3)   generally amend the law relating to health and sanitation.

By adding

    Montgomery County Code

    Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation

    Article IX. Interagency Commission on Homelessness

    Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-64, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, 24-68, and 24-69

Boldface	*Heading or defined term.*
Underlining	*Added to existing law by original bill.*
[Single boldface brackets]	*Deleted from existing law by original bill.*
Double underlining	*Added by amendment.*
[[Double boldface brackets]]	*Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.*
* * *	*Existing law unaffected by bill.*

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1   **Sec. 1. Article IX (Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-64, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, 24-68,**

2   **and 24-69) is added as follows:**

3   **Article IX. Interagency Commission on Homelessness**

4   **24-62. Definitions.**

5   In this Article, *Commission* means the Interagency Commission on

6   Homelessness.

7   **24-63. Established.**

8   The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an

9   Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

10   **24-64. Members**

11   (a)   The Commission has 25 members.

12   (b)   The Executive must appoint the following to serve as ex-officio

13   members:

14   (1)   Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;

15   (2)   Chief of Special Needs Housing of the Department of Health and

16   Human Services;

17   (3)   Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services of the Department

18   of Health and Human Services;

19   (4)   Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation;

20   (5)   Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

21   (6)   Assistant Chief for Field Services of the Montgomery County

22   Police Department;

23   (7)   A representative from the Office of the County Executive; and

24   (8)   The Director of the Family Justice Center.

25   (c)   The Executive must invite the following to serve as ex officio members:

26   (1)   A member of the County Council, selected by the Council

27   President;

28		(2)	Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission;
29		(3)	Director of Student Services of the Montgomery County Public
30			Schools;
31		(4)	The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
32			Gaithersburg;
33		(5)	The Mayor of the representative of the Mayor of the City of
34			Rockville;
35		(6)	The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
36			Takoma Park;
37		(7)	A representative of the Department of Veteran's Affairs; and
38		(8)	A member of the County Legislative Delegation selected jointly
39			by the Chairs of the House and Senate Delegations.

40 (d) The Executive must appoint 5 members that are representatives of the
41 Montgomery County Continuum of Care.

42 (e) The Executive must appoint 4 members of the public. At least 1 public
43 member must be a homeless or formerly homeless resident of
44 Montgomery County and at least 1 member must be a representative of
45 a hospital located in Montgomery County.

46 (f) The term of each member is 3 years. If a member is appointed to fill a
47 vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the
48 unexpired term.

49 24-65. Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, compensation; subcommittees.

50 (a) Each member of the Group is a voting member.

51 (b) The Executive must designate a Chair and Vice Chair.

52 (c) The Commission must meet at least 4 times each year.

53   (d)   A member serves without compensation. However, a member may

54   request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates

55   established by the County.

56   (e)   The Commission may establish 1 or more subcommittees to assist in

57   carrying out any function of the Commission. Any subcommittee action

58   is not the action of the Commission and must not bind the Commission

59   or its members. A subcommittee may include a person who is not a

60   member of the Commission. However, the chair of each subcommittee

61   must be a member of the Commission.

62 **24-66. Duties.**

63   The Commission must:

64   (a)   promote a community-wide goal to end homelessness;

65   (b)   develop a strategic plan to prevent and reduce homelessness and

66   minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and

67   individuals;

68   (c)   review and monitor any program that is a component of the Continuum

69   of Care, 100,000 Homes Campaign, and Housing First Initiative,

70   including:

71   (1)   permanent housing;

72   (2)   transitional housing;

73   (3)   supportive services;

74   (4)   homeless management information system; and

75   (5)   homelessness prevention;

76   (d)   recommend to the Executive and Council any improvements to the

77   Continuum of Care, including process changes, to reduce any barrier to

78   housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from

79   homelessness to housing;

80   (e)   educate the community about homelessness, best practices to reduce

81   homelessness, resources needed to reduce homelessness, and long term

82   savings that are achieved by providing permanent, stable housing; and

83   (f)   recommend and promote partnerships with any private organization,

84   business, corporation, philanthropic organization or foundation, and any

85   municipal, state, or federal government agency to improve the County's

86   ability to prevent and reduce homelessness.

87   **24-67. Annual report.**

88   By November 30 of each year, the Commission must submit to the Executive

89 and Council a report that:

90   (a)   provides data and trends regarding homelessness, including data from

91   the Council of Government's Point-in-Time survey and the 100,000

92   Homes Campaign survey;

93   (b)   identifies gaps in the Continuum of Care that prevent or impede the

94   County's ability to address needs identified through the review of data

95   on homeless;

96   (c)   makes recommendations for the capital and operating budget for the

97   following fiscal year;

98   (d)   makes recommendation for any legislative or regulatory changes needed

99   to implement the Continuum of Care strategic plan; and

100   (e)   reports on any educational or public outreach activities undertaken

101   during the preceding year.

102 **24-68. Advocacy.**

103 The Commission must not engage in any legislative advocacy at the state or

104 federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental

105 Relations.

106 **24-69. Staff.**

107   The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff within the

108   Department of Health and Human Services to staff the Commission.

109   **Sec. 2. Terms for Initial Members.**

110   The County Executive must stagger the terms of the members initially

111   appointed under Section 24-64 so that approximately one-third of the terms of these

112   members expire each year.

113   *Approved:*

114

Craig L. Rice, President, County Council	Date

115   *Approved:*

116

Isiah Leggett, County Executive	Date

117   *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

118

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council	Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 34-13
Interagency Commission on Homelessness

DESCRIPTION: Bill 34-13 would create an Interagency Commission on Homelessness

PROBLEM: Homelessness continues in Montgomery County as it does in other jurisdictions. The 2013 COG Point-in-Time survey counted 1,004 homeless people including 638 homeless individuals and 366 people in families. In November, during the 100,000 Homes Campaign Registry week 431 homeless individuals were contacted and 369 completed surveys providing information about the risk factors, including health, that have led to their homelessness.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Improve planning and collaboration to prevent and reduce homelessness by establishing an ongoing Commission of policy makers, service partners, and public members. The Commission will help inform the public about the problem of homelessness and the outcomes from helping individuals and families to have permanent housing. The Commission will review programs and best practices and make recommendations to the County Executive and County Council.

COORDINATION: Health and Human Services

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: Subject to the general oversight of the County Executive and County Council.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Attorney 240-777-7933
Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney 240-777-7815

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: N/A

PENALTIES: N/A