

Bill No. 34-13  
Concerning: Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Established  
Revised: 3/24/2013 Draft No. 2  
Introduced: December 10, 2013  
Enacted: April 1, 2014  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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By: Council Vice-President Leventhal and Council President Rice

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**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, and 24-70~~

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

*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, and 24-70) is added as follows:

3                           Article IX. Interagency Commission on Homelessness

4 24-62. Legislative findings and statement of policy.

5           (a) The County Council finds that reducing homelessness requires  
6           substantial coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local  
7           governments, as well as private sector service providers and community  
8           organizations.

9           (b) Montgomery County Continuum of Care is a group of governmental  
10           entities and community representatives that carries out the  
11           responsibilities of the Continuum of Care program established pursuant  
12           to the federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to  
13           Housing Act of 2009 (the HEARTH Act).

14           (c) The County Council intends that the Interagency Commission on  
15           Homelessness established under this Article be constituted and function  
16           in such a manner that it may serve as the governing board of  
17           Montgomery County Continuum of Care, and in serving this function  
18           comply with applicable federal regulations governing the Continuum of  
19           Care program.

20 24-63. Definitions.

21           [[In]] When used in this Article[[,]]:

22           100,000 Homes Campaign means an initiative in special needs housing that  
23           gives priority to placing the most vulnerable, chronically homeless people in  
24           permanent supportive housing through a Housing First model;

25           Commission means the Interagency Commission on Homelessness;

26           Continuum of Care means a community program, established under the  
27           HEARTH Act, to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the

28 specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and  
 29 maximum self-sufficiency; and  
 30 Housing First Initiative means a process for placing homeless people into  
 31 housing that discourages imposing conditions on placement related to health,  
 32 employment, or sobriety, and seeks to reduce the time in shelter or transitional  
 33 programs and provide the needed supports to people in a permanent home.

34 **[[24-63.]]24-64. Established.**

35 The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an  
 36 Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

37 **[[24-64.]]24-65. Members**

- 38 (a) The Commission has 25 members.
- 39 (b) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as ex-officio  
 40 members:
  - 41 (1) Director of the Department of Health and Human Services;
  - 42 (2) Chief of Special Needs Housing of the Department of Health and  
 43 Human Services;
  - 44 (3) Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services of the Department  
 45 of Health and Human Services;
  - 46 (4) Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation;
  - 47 (5) Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs;
  - 48 (6) Assistant Chief for Field Services of the Montgomery County  
 49 Police Department; and
  - 50 (7) A representative from the Office of the County Executive[; and  
 51 (8) The Director of the Family Justice Center]].
- 52 (c) The Executive must invite the following to serve as ex officio members:
  - 53 (1) A member of the County Council, selected by the Council  
 54 President;

- 55                   (2)   Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission;
- 56                   (3)   Director of Student Services of the Montgomery County Public
- 57                         Schools;
- 58                   (4)   The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
- 59                         Gaithersburg;
- 60                   (5)   The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
- 61                         Rockville;
- 62                   (6)   The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of
- 63                         Takoma Park;
- 64                   (7)   A representative of the either the United States Department of
- 65                         Veterans Affairs or the Maryland Department of Veterans
- 66                         Affairs; [[and]]
- 67                   (8)   The Montgomery County Sheriff or the representative of the
- 68                         County Sheriff; and
- 69                   (9)   A member of the County Legislative Delegation selected jointly
- 70                         by the Chairs of the House and Senate Delegations.
- 71                   (d)   The Executive must appoint 5 members that are representatives of the
- 72                         Montgomery County Continuum of Care.
- 73                   (e)   The Executive must appoint 4 members of the public. At least 1 public
- 74                         member must be a homeless or formerly homeless resident of
- 75                         Montgomery County and at least 1 member must be a representative of
- 76                         a hospital located in Montgomery County.
- 77                   (f)   The term of each non-ex officio member is 3 years. If a member is
- 78                         appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves
- 79                         the rest of the unexpired term.

80   **[[24-65.]]24-66.       Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, compensation;**  
 81   **subcommittees.**

- 82 (a) Each member of the [[Group]] Commission is a voting member.
- 83 (b) The Executive must designate a Chair and Vice Chair.
- 84 (c) The Commission must meet at least 4 times each year.
- 85 (d) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may  
 86 request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates  
 87 established by the County.
- 88 (e) The Commission may establish 1 or more subcommittees to assist in  
 89 carrying out any function of the Commission. Any subcommittee action  
 90 is not the action of the Commission and must not bind the Commission  
 91 or its members. A subcommittee may include a person who is not a  
 92 member of the Commission. [[However, the chair of each  
 93 subcommittee must be a member of the Commission.]]

94 **[[24-66.]]24-67. Duties.**

95 The Commission must:

- 96 (a) promote a community-wide goal to end homelessness;
- 97 (b) develop a strategic plan to prevent and reduce homelessness and  
 98 minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and  
 99 individuals;
- 100 (c) review and monitor any program that is a component of the Continuum  
 101 of Care, 100,000 Homes Campaign, and Housing First Initiative,  
 102 including:
  - 103 (1) permanent housing;
  - 104 (2) transitional housing;
  - 105 (3) supportive services;
  - 106 (4) homeless management information system; [[and]]
  - 107 (5) homelessness prevention; and
  - 108 (6) emergency shelter;

- 109           (d) recommend to the Executive and Council any improvements to the  
 110           Continuum of Care, including process changes, to reduce any barrier to  
 111           housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from  
 112           homelessness to housing;
- 113           (e) educate the community about homelessness, best practices to reduce  
 114           homelessness, resources needed to reduce homelessness, and long term  
 115           savings that are achieved by providing permanent, stable housing; and
- 116           (f) recommend and promote partnerships with any private organization,  
 117           business, corporation, philanthropic organization or foundation, and any  
 118           municipal, state, or federal government agency to improve the County's  
 119           ability to prevent and reduce homelessness.

120 **[[24-67.]]24-68. Annual report.**

121           By November 30 of each year, the Commission must submit to the Executive  
 122 and Council a report that:

- 123           (a) provides data and trends regarding homelessness, including data from  
 124           the Council of Government's Point-in-Time survey and the 100,000  
 125           Homes Campaign survey;
- 126           (b) identifies gaps in the Continuum of Care that prevent or impede the  
 127           County's ability to address needs identified through the review of data  
 128           on homeless;
- 129           (c) makes recommendations for the capital and operating budget for the  
 130           following fiscal year;
- 131           (d) makes recommendation for any legislative or regulatory changes needed  
 132           to implement the Continuum of Care strategic plan; and
- 133           (e) reports on any educational or public outreach activities undertaken  
 134           during the preceding year.

135 ~~[[24-68.]]~~24-69. Advocacy.

136 The Commission must not engage in any legislative advocacy at the state or  
137 federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental  
138 Relations.

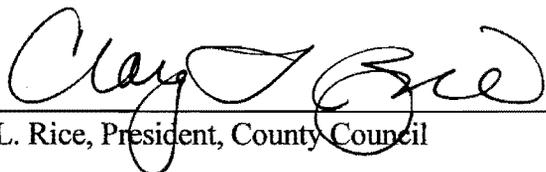
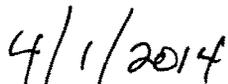
139 ~~[[24-69.]]~~24-70. Staff.

140 The Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff within the  
141 Department of Health and Human Services to staff the Commission.

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

143 The County Executive must stagger the terms of the non-ex officio members  
144 initially appointed under Section 24-64 so that approximately one-third of the terms  
145 of these members expire each year.

146 *Approved:*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig L. Rice, President, County Council Date

148 *Approved:*

149 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

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

151 \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date