HOUSE BILL 641

By Powell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 71, relative to the interagency council on homelessness.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by adding the following as a new chapter:

4-39-101. As used in this chapter, “council” means the interagency council on homelessness established by § 4-39-102.

4-39-102.

(a) There is established an interagency council on homelessness.

(b) The governor shall appoint all members of the council. The members of the council shall include representatives of state departments that provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness, private individuals who provide services to or advocate for individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals who have experienced homelessness.

(c) All members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

4-39-103. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the comprehensive state travel regulations.

4-39-104. The interagency council on homelessness serves as an advisory committee to the governor. The council may recommend policies to the governor. The governor or the governor’s delegate shall provide a written response to each of the council’s recommendations.

4-39-105.

(a) The members of the council shall annually elect one (1) member to serve as presiding officer and shall establish bylaws to govern the operation of the council.

(b) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

(c) An action taken by the council must be approved by a majority vote of the members present.

(d) The council may select and use advisors.

(e) The department of human services shall provide clerical and advisory support staff to the council.

4-39-106. The council shall:

(1) Survey current resources for services for individuals experiencing homelessness in this state;

(2) Initiate an evaluation of the current and future needs for the services;

(3) Assist in coordinating and providing statewide services for all individuals experiencing homelessness in this state;

(4) Increase the flow of information among separate providers and appropriate authorities;

(5) Develop guidelines to monitor the provision of services for individuals experiencing homelessness and the methods of delivering those services;

(6) Assist in assessing the need for housing for individuals with special needs in different localities;

(7) Coordinate with the state, local, and private entities to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with information on services available to assist them in obtaining employment and job training;

(8) Establish a central resource and information center for the individuals experiencing homelessness in this state; and

(9) Ensure that local or statewide nonprofit organizations perform the duties under this section that the council is unable to perform.

4-39-107. The council may hold, throughout the state, public hearings on homelessness issues.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.