

SENATE 607:

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY HOUSING AND SERVICES

(Summary reflects text as redrafted)

SPONSORS:

Sens. Jehlen, Knapik & Welch, and Rep. Humason

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

01/20/11 Bill filed
01/24/11 Referred to Joint Committee on Housing
01/24/11 House concurred
05/10/11 Hearing held
06/06/11 Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to Senate Ways and Means

EXISTING LAWS AFFECTED:

None.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

- Requires the following agencies to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU): Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Department of Veterans' Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transitional Assistance, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Families, Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation.
- The MOU must coordinate the procurement of community-based supportive services and capital and operating subsidies for low-income housing, and be filed with the Governor and various legislative committees by March 15, 2012.
- The MOU shall: (1) facilitate the creation of a program that creates up to 1,000 units of supportive housing by March 15, 2015; (2) assess the need for supportive housing to serve the homeless, families at risk of homelessness, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; (3) establish a long-range target to produce additional supportive housing; and (4) establish benchmarks to assess savings from reduced institutionalization, shelter, and nursing home usage.
- Establishes a grant program, subject to appropriation, that will be administered by the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness to subsidize such housing and supportive services.

**AGENCY
COMMENTS:**

The Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency supports the premise of this bill, to offer a more coordinated effort to produce supportive housing.

ESTIMATED COST:

This legislation will have no additional cost to the Commonwealth.

(SB)