

CHAPTER 141

S.B. No. 465

AN ACT

relating to the composition, powers, duties, and change of the name of the Interagency Council for Services for the Homeless.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Part 2, Article 4413(501), Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Section 2.11 to read as follows:

Sec. 2.11. TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS. (a) The Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless is composed of:

(1) one representative from each of the following agencies, appointed by the administrative head of that agency:

- (A) the Texas Department of Health;*
- (B) the Texas Department of Human Services;*
- (C) the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation;*
- (D) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;*
- (E) the Texas Department on Aging;*
- (F) the Texas Rehabilitation Commission;*
- (G) the Central Education Agency;*
- (H) the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse;*
- (I) the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services;*
- (J) the Health and Human Services Commission;*
- (K) the Texas Employment Commission;*
- (L) the Texas Youth Commission;*
- (M) the Texas Veterans Commission; and*
- (N) the work force development division of the Texas Department of Commerce;*

(2) one representative from the office of the comptroller of public accounts appointed by the comptroller;

(3) two representatives from the department, one each from the community affairs division and the housing finance division, appointed by the director; and

(4) three members representing service providers to the homeless, one each appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) A member of the council serves at the pleasure of the appointing official or until termination of the member's employment with the entity the member represents. The members shall annually elect one member to serve as presiding officer. The council shall meet at least quarterly. Any actions taken by the council must be approved by a majority vote of the members present.

(c) The Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the council is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 1999.

(d) The council may select and use advisors as necessary.

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

(f) The council shall:

- (1) survey current resources for services for the homeless in the state;*
- (2) initiate an evaluation of the current and future needs for the services;*
- (3) assist in coordinating and providing statewide services for all homeless persons in the state;*

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

(5) *develop guidelines to monitor the provision of services for the homeless and the methods of service delivery;*

(6) *provide technical assistance to the housing finance division in assessing the need for housing for persons with special needs in different localities;*

(7) *establish a central resource and information center for the homeless in the state; and*

(8) *develop, in cooperation with the department and the Health and Human Services Commission, a strategic plan to address the needs of the homeless in the state.*

(g) *The council shall submit annually a progress report to the governing bodies of the agencies represented on the council.*

(h) *The department shall operate a transitional housing pilot program in four areas of the state if funds are made available. The program shall address the needs of the homeless for:*

(1) *interim housing;*

(2) *physical and mental health services;*

(3) *literacy training;*

(4) *job training;*

(5) *family counseling;*

(6) *credit counseling;*

(7) *education services; and*

(8) *other services that will prevent homelessness.*

(i) *The council may accept gifts and grants from a public or private source for use in carrying out the council's duties under this section.*

SECTION 2. Section 781.0175, Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. (a) The name of the Interagency Council for Services for the Homeless is changed to the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless. Any reference in the law to the Interagency Council for Services for the Homeless means the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless.

(b) Before ordering or purchasing new paper or forms to reflect the name change, the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless shall use all paper and forms in the possession of the Interagency Council for Services for the Homeless.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 7, 1993: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on April 30, 1993: Yeas 128, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 16, 1993.

Effective May 16, 1993.