

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5607

As of January 10, 2022

Title: An act relating to including individuals in jails and hospitals who were homeless before entering such facilities in the state's annual homeless census.

Brief Description: Including individuals in jails and hospitals who were homeless before entering such facilities in the state's annual homeless census.

Sponsors: Senator Wilson, L..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Housing & Local Government: 1/12/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the state's annual homeless census to include persons in jails or hospitals who were homeless before entering such facilities.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Brandon Popovac (786-7465)

Background: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) must annually conduct a homeless census that counts all homeless individuals in coordination with existing homeless census projects, including those funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Every year HUD requires communities across the nation to collect data on their homeless populations and to report the data to HUD. The data collection process is referred to as the Point-In-Time (PIT) count and is collected as a means to estimate the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in the United States. Commerce provides survey forms for counties and agencies to use for their PIT counts, but counties can opt to use their own forms as long as they comply with state guidelines. Any data on subpopulations and other characteristics of the homeless must, at a minimum, be consistent with HUD requirements.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The state's annual homeless census must make every effort to count persons who are admitted into hospitals or incarcerated in local jails and had no permanent address before entering such facilities. Any data or information collected during the annual homeless census about persons who are admitted into hospitals or incarcerated in local jails and had no permanent address before entering such facilities is not required to be reported to HUD.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 4, 2021.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.