

Model Legislation:

Taskforce or Study Committee on Homelessness

The Task Force or Study Committee model provides a legislative option for lawmakers seeking additional information or coordination before advancing policy changes related to homelessness.

Under this model, legislation establishes a time-limited body charged with examining the causes, scope, and impact of homelessness, including the effectiveness and costs of different policy responses. Membership typically includes representatives from relevant state agencies, local governments, housing and service providers, and, in some cases, individuals with lived experience.

This approach is often used in situations where there is political pressure to act, but limited consensus on solutions. When structured appropriately, a task force or study committee can support cross-system analysis, data sharing, and the development of evidence-informed recommendations that reflect housing and services system capacity.

Homelessness Task Force / Study Committee

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "task force" refers to the homelessness task force established by section 2 of this chapter.

Sec. 2. The homelessness task force is established as a temporary task force serving the general assembly.

Sec. 3. (a) The task force consists of the following twenty-five (25) voting members:

1. Four (4) members of the senate, appointed as follows:
 - I. Two (2) members appointed by the president pro tempore.
 - II. Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
2. Four (4) members of the house of representatives, appointed as follows:

- I. Two (2) members appointed by the speaker.
 - II. Two (2) members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- 3. The director of the department of veterans' affairs or the director's designee.
 - 4. The executive director of the public defenders' council director's designee.
 - 5. The executive director of the (state housing finance agency) or the executive director's designee.
 - 6. The Director of the (state Social Services Administration), or their designee;
 - 7. The Director of the (state Department of Corrections), or their designee;
 - 8. The Director of the (State Department of Health), or their designee;
 - 9. The Board Chair of the Executive Committee of the Balance of State Continuum of Care, or their designee;
 - 10. One representative from each CoC across the state.
 - 11. The following nine (9) members who may not be legislators, appointed by the governor:
 - I. One (1) representative of a supportive housing provider.
 - II. One (1) representative of a supportive housing technical assistance provider.
 - III. One (1) representative of a provider of services to the homeless population.
 - IV. One (1) representative of a provider of mental health services.
 - V. One (1) representative of the faith-based community that provides services to the homeless population.
 - VI. One (1) representative of a provider of domestic violence service provider
 - VII. One (1) representative of the association representing sheriffs and/or police
 - VIII. Two (2) people with lived experience being homeless.

Sec. 4. (a) Thirteen (13) members of the task force constitute a quorum.

(b) The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the task force is necessary for the task force to take official action other than to meet and take testimony.

Sec. 5. (a) The speaker shall appoint by DATE one (1) of the speaker's appointments to serve as the task force's:

- 1. Chair beginning; and
- 2. Vice-chair.

(b) The president pro tempore shall appoint by DATE one (1) of the president pro tempore's appointments to serve as the task force's:

- 3. Chair beginning; and
- 4. Vice-chair

(c) The task force shall meet at the call of the chair.

Sec. 6. The task force shall meet not more than three (3) times in calendar year 202X.

Sec. 7. (a) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the appointing authority that appointed the member whose position is vacant shall appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

(b) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy must have the qualifications that a member appointed by the appointing authority must have.

(c) An individual appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the remainder of the term of the member the individual is appointed to succeed.

Sec. 8. The task force shall study the causes of homelessness including the following:

1. The taskforce shall study the causes and needs related to homelessness including the following:
 - a. The increase in homelessness in (state);
 - b. The role and impact of mental illness on homelessness;
 - c. The role and impact that access to mental illness services has on homelessness;
 - d. The impact of homelessness on (state) veterans;
 - e. Conduct a literature review and report on the available research on the success of existing programs in Indiana and their efficacy compared to policing;
 - f. Solicit input from neighborhood groups, police, homeless nonprofit organizations, affected businesses, drug rehabilitation and mental health groups, people directly affected by homelessness, and municipal leaders;
 - g. Create a map of existing shelters and public land outside of a 5 mile radius of each shelter;
 - h. Develop specific recommendations on the enforcement of bans on camping and sleeping in public spaces, new types of state and local contracts with homeless nonprofit organizations, interdepartmental data sharing and communication systems regarding homelessness, and the necessity for new state laws dealing with homelessness;
 - i. Develop recommendations for home and community-based services, including housing-related services. The recommendations should address:
 - i. Provide comprehensive support for individuals with serious mental illness, severe substance use disorders, traumatic brain injuries, or intellectual/developmental disabilities;
 - ii. Facilitate access to services that promote independence and community integration;
 - iii. Include provisions for respite care, community transition assistance, supported employment, and other necessary services to meet the needs of eligible individuals;
 - j. The state auditor shall review the expenses related to and projected increases to policing if the prohibition on street camping were to be

implemented. If the police do not track data related to homelessness, they must set up processes to do so.

- k. Any other topic or cause that contributes to or impacts homelessness in STATE.

Sec. 9. The task force shall:

1. Develop recommendations for the legislative council concerning the issues set forth in section 8 of this chapter;
2. Issue a report setting forth the recommendations developed under subdivision (1); and
3. Not later than DATE, submit the report in an electronic format under to the legislative council.

Sec. 10. (a) A data sharing agreement shall be established between corrections, healthcare, and homeless systems to ensure comprehensive tracking of outcomes across all systems.

(b) If data and tracking are not currently available, the necessary infrastructure shall be established to require the tracking.

Sec. 11. The legislative services agency shall provide staff support to the task force.

Sec. 12. (a) Each legislative member and each lay member of the task force is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to individuals serving as legislative and lay members, respectively, on an interim study committee established by the legislative council.

(b) A member of the task force who is a state employee is not entitled to a per diem. However, the member is entitled to receive the same travel allowances paid to members of the task force described in subsection (a).

Sec. 13. The task force's expenses, including the payment of per diem, mileage, and travel allowances under section 12 of this chapter, are payable from amounts appropriated to the legislative council.

Sec. 14. This chapter expires DATE.

Copyright

This material and its contents are the property of Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) or the credited content provider and are protected by U.S. copyright law. No part may be copied, reproduced, distributed, published, displayed, transmitted, modified, or used to create derivative works without prior written permission from CSH. You may not remove or alter any copyright or proprietary notices.

Disclaimer

The content contained herein is provided only for educational and informational purposes. CSH attempts to ensure that content is accurate and obtained from reliable sources, but does not represent it to be error-free. CSH may add, amend or repeal any policy, procedure or regulation, and failure to timely post such changes to this document shall not be construed as a waiver of enforcement.