

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 973 (Chair, Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Appropriations

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**Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness - Reports on Housing Status**

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This bill requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report specified information to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness by November 15, 2020, and November 15, 2021. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:**

*Health Services Cost Review Commission Report*

HSCRC must report on the housing status of patients discharged from hospitals in the preceding 12 months. The report must include (1) the number of patients discharged; (2) the number of discharged patients who did not have a stable permanent residence at the time of discharge; (3) the rate of readmission of patients with and without a stable

permanent residence at the time of discharge; and (4) the housing and social services provided to discharged patients.

*Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Report*

DPSCS must report on the housing status of inmates released in the preceding 12 months. The report must include (1) the number of inmates released; (2) the number of released inmates who did not have a stable permanent residence at the time of release or parole; (3) the number of released inmates who re-entered correctional facilities within a year of release or parole; and (4) settings to which inmates without a stable permanent residence at the time of release or parole were released.

*Maryland Department of Labor and Department of Human Services Report*

MDL and DHS must jointly report on the housing status of individuals served by the workforce development programs in the preceding year. The report must include (1) the number of individuals who did not have a stable permanent residence while participating in workforce development programs and (2) the housing and social services that were provided to individuals who did not have a stable permanent residence while participating in workforce development programs.

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 427 of 2014 established the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness to ensure that public resources, programs, and policies are coordinated and effective in preventing, mitigating the effects of, and ending homelessness in Maryland. The committee must:

- study issues relating to homelessness, including housing, income, health care, education, government supports, and veterans experiencing homelessness;
- consult with governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to identify State policies, programs, and actions that should or could prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland;
- review and make recommendations to align State statutes, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities with State policies and actions that should or could prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland;
- search for any intradepartmental or interdepartmental gaps, inconsistencies, and inefficiencies in the implementation or attainment of State policies, programs, and actions that should or could prevent, mitigate the effects of, and end homelessness in Maryland; and
- identify new laws, regulations, programs, services, and budgetary priorities that are needed.

The committee must submit a report to the General Assembly by December 1 of each year, that includes a description of the committee's work and any recommendations. The Department of Legislative Services provides staff to the committee.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1031 (Chair, Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness) - Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2020  
an/jc Third Reader - March 16, 2020

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Analysis by: Amberly Holcomb

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510