HOUSE BILL 269

O1, N1 7lr0835
CF SB 531

By: **Delegates Krimm, Brooks, Hettleman, Lierman, McKay, Patterson, and Valentino–Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2017
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 15, 2017

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program ~~in the Department of Human Resources~~ to assist families and individuals who are experiencing, or who are in imminent danger of, a housing crisis in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing; allowing a family to apply for Program services if the family is the recipient of temporary cash assistance or is in the process of applying for temporary cash assistance; specifying certain activities that a housing ~~counselor~~ navigator shall perform in assisting a family or individual client with securing and maintaining permanent, affordable housing; specifying certain purposes for which Program funds may be used; specifying certain client–related expenses; requiring a local administrative agency to be designated by ~~the Department~~ a certain department or a local government for certain purposes; ~~specifying that the Program be funded by a certain fund;~~ requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation for the Program in the annual budget each fiscal year beginning in a certain fiscal year, subject to certain limitations; ~~altering the purpose of the Foreclosed Property Registry Fund;~~ making certain provisions of this Act contingent on the taking effect of another Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program.

BY adding to
Article – Human Services
Section 6–801 through 6–807 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8. Housing ~~Counselor~~ Navigator and Aftercare Program"

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 4–2301 through 4–2307 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 23. Housing Navigator and Aftercare Program"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
~~Article – Real Property~~
~~Section 14–126.1(i)~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Human Services

SUBTITLE 8. HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

6–801.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

6–802.

THERE IS A HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

6–803.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING, OR WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF, A HOUSING CRISIS IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING.

6–804.

A FAMILY MAY APPLY FOR ~~HOUSING COUNSELING AND AFTERCARE~~ PROGRAM SERVICES IF THE FAMILY IS THE RECIPIENT OF OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, AS DEFINED IN § 5–301 OF THIS ARTICLE.

6–805.

A HOUSING ~~COUNSELOR~~ NAVIGATOR SHALL ASSIST A FAMILY OR AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT WITH SECURING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY:

(1) ASSISTING THE CLIENT WITH SEARCHING FOR AND OBTAINING PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING;

(2) DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, CURRENT LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES AND EXPANDING THE LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES TO INCLUDE NEW RESOURCES;

(3) ESTABLISHING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLIENT AND ADVOCATING FOR THE CLIENT WITH LANDLORDS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, REALTY COMPANIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF LOW–INCOME HOUSING;

(4) WORKING WITH A CLIENT'S CASE MANAGER, WHEN APPLICABLE, TO COORDINATE SERVICES TO THE CLIENT;

(5) ASSISTING THE CLIENT, AS NEEDED, WITH ISSUES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CHRONIC HOUSING PROBLEMS, SUCH AS BUDGETING AND HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT; AND

(6) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

6–806.

(A) PROGRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR:

(1) SALARY AND FICA FOR HOUSING ~~COUNSELORS~~ NAVIGATORS AND AFTERCARE CASE MANAGERS;

(2) CLIENT–RELATED EXPENSES, INCLUDING:

(I) FIRST AND FINAL MONTHS' RENT;

(II) TRANSPORTATION FOR HOUSING SEARCHES;

(III) MOVING EXPENSES;

(IV) ESSENTIAL FURNISHINGS;

(V) STORAGE;

(VI) ARREARAGES;

(VII) CREDIT CHECKS AND HOUSING APPLICATION FEES;

(VIII) SECURITY DEPOSITS;

(IX) UTILITY DEPOSITS; AND

(X) OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS; AND

(3) OTHER ITEMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATES.

(B) A LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM IN A PARTICULAR SUBDIVISION, PROVIDE SERVICES, AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS, INCLUDING OPERATING COSTS, RELATED TO THE PROGRAM.

~~(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE PROGRAM BE FUNDED BY THE FORECLOSED PROPERTY REGISTRY FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION.~~

6–807.

~~BEGINNING~~ SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR **2019** AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM OF **$516,828.**

~~Article – Real Property~~

~~14–126.1.~~

~~(i) (1) There is a Foreclosed Property Registry Fund in the Department.~~

~~(2) The purpose of the Fund is to support:~~

~~(I) [the] THE development, administration, and maintenance of the Foreclosed Property Registry established under this section; AND~~

~~(II) THE HOUSING COUNSELOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 6, SUBTITLE 8 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE, WHICH ASSISTS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING.~~

~~(3) The Department shall administer the Fund.~~

~~(4) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.~~

~~(ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.~~

~~(5) The Fund consists of:~~

~~(i) Revenue distributed to the Fund under subsection (h) of this section;~~

~~(ii) Investment earnings of the Fund;~~

~~(iii) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and~~

~~(iv) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.~~

~~(6) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.~~

~~(ii) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Housing and Community Development

SUBTITLE 23. HOUSING NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

4–2301.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE HOUSING NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM.

4–2302.

THERE IS A HOUSING NAVIGATOR AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

4–2303.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING, OR WHO ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF, A HOUSING CRISIS IN OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING.

4–2304.

A FAMILY MAY APPLY FOR PROGRAM SERVICES IF THE FAMILY IS THE RECIPIENT OF OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, AS DEFINED IN § 5–301 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE.

4–2305.

A HOUSING NAVIGATOR SHALL ASSIST A FAMILY OR AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT WITH SECURING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY:

(1) ASSISTING THE CLIENT WITH SEARCHING FOR AND OBTAINING PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING;

(2) DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE, CURRENT LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES AND EXPANDING THE LIST OF HOUSING RESOURCES TO INCLUDE NEW RESOURCES;

(3) ESTABLISHING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLIENT AND ADVOCATING FOR THE CLIENT WITH LANDLORDS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, REALTY COMPANIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF LOW–INCOME HOUSING;

(4) WORKING WITH A CLIENT'S CASE MANAGER, WHEN APPLICABLE, TO COORDINATE SERVICES TO THE CLIENT;

(5) ASSISTING THE CLIENT, AS NEEDED, WITH ISSUES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CHRONIC HOUSING PROBLEMS, SUCH AS BUDGETING AND HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT; AND

(6) PERFORMING OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

4–2306.

(A) PROGRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED FOR:

(1) SALARY AND FICA FOR HOUSING NAVIGATORS AND AFTERCARE CASE MANAGERS;

(2) CLIENT–RELATED EXPENSES, INCLUDING:

(I) FIRST AND FINAL MONTHS' RENT;

(II) TRANSPORTATION FOR HOUSING SEARCHES;

(III) MOVING EXPENSES;

(IV) ESSENTIAL FURNISHINGS;

(V) STORAGE;

(VI) ARREARAGES;

(VII) CREDIT CHECKS AND HOUSING APPLICATION FEES;

(VIII) SECURITY DEPOSITS;

(IX) UTILITY DEPOSITS; AND

(X) OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS; AND

(3) OTHER ITEMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATES.

(B) A LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY SHALL BE DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM IN A PARTICULAR SUBDIVISION, PROVIDE SERVICES, AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS, INCLUDING OPERATING COSTS, RELATED TO THE PROGRAM.

4–2307.

SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM OF $516,828.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017, contingent on the taking effect of Chapter ____ (H.B. 134) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017, and if Chapter ____ (H.B. 134) does not take effect, Section 2 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.