



**Committee:** HHS

**Committee Review:** At a future date

**Staff:** Christine Wellons, Legislative Attorney

**Purpose:** To receive testimony – no vote expected

**Keywords:** #MoCoCommissionOnHomelessness

AGENDA ITEM #7

June 16, 2020

**Public Hearing**

## SUBJECT

Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Glass, Albornoz, and Rice

Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Jawando and Navarro, Council Vice-President Hucker, Council President Katz, and Councilmembers Friedson and Riemer

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Public Speakers

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A; receive public testimony

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Bill 7-20 would alter the membership and duties of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness. The purpose of the amendments is to improve the governance and effectiveness of the ICH, as well as to clarify the mission of the ICH to “end and prevent” homelessness, as opposed to simply “reducing” homelessness.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- N/A; receive public testimony

### This report contains:

Staff Report

Bill 7-20

Legislative Request Report

Fiscal Impact statement

Economic Impact statement

Pages 1

©1

©10

©11

©14

F:\LAW\BILLS\2007 Interagency Commn On Homelessness\PH Cover Sheet.Docx

**Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at [adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

## **MEMORANDUM**

June 11, 2020

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties<sup>1</sup>

PURPOSE: Public hearing – no Council votes required

Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties, sponsored by Lead Sponsors Councilmembers Glass, Albornoz, and Rice, and Co-Sponsors Councilmembers Jawando and Navarro, Council Vice-President Hucker, Council President Katz, and Councilmembers Friedson and Riemer, was introduced on February 25, 2020. A Health and Human Services Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for June 25, at 9:30 a.m.

Bill 7-20 would alter the membership and duties of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) is a 25-member commission created by the County Council in 2014 to coordinate public and private programs to reduce homelessness in the County.

The ICH has requested that several modifications and updates be made to its membership and duties. The purpose of these amendments is to improve the governance and effectiveness of the ICH, as well as to clarify the mission of the ICH to “end and prevent” homelessness, as opposed to simply “reducing” homelessness.

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Under Bill 7-20, the ICH would remain a 25-member commission, but its composition would change. At the request of the ICH, certain ex officio slots would be replaced with more

---

<sup>1</sup> #MoCoCommissionOnHomelessness

public representatives, including homeless service providers, healthcare providers, family services providers, and affordable housing providers.

Regarding operations of the ICH, the bill would require the ICH to maintain a governance committee co-chaired by the ICH Chair and the Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness of the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill also would clarify that a majority of the ICH constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

Importantly, the bill would update certain policy approaches of the ICH. In particular, it would provide that the ICH's purpose is to end and prevent homelessness (*i.e.*, bring homelessness to functional zero), rather than simply reducing homelessness. It also would explicitly prioritize finding permanent housing for homeless individuals and valuing client choice.

This packet contains:

Bill 7-20

Legislative Request Report

Fiscal and Economic Impact statement

Economic Impact statement

Circle #

1

10

11

14

Bill No. 7-20  
Concerning: Interagency Commission on  
Homelessness – Membership and  
Duties  
Revised: 01/28/2020 Draft No. 4  
Introduced: February 25, 2020  
Expires: August 25, 2021  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

---

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Glass, Albornoz, and Rice  
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Jawando and Navarro, Council Vice-President Hucker, Council  
President Katz, and Councilmembers Friedson and Riemer

---

**AN ACT** to:

- (1) alter the membership of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness;
- (2) alter the duties of the Commission; and
- (3) generally amend the law regarding the Commission.

By amending

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation  
Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, and 24-68

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Boldface</b>            | <i>Heading or defined term.</i>                    |
| <u>Underlining</u>         | <i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>     |
| [Single boldface brackets] | <i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i> |
| <u>Double underlining</u>  | <i>Added by amendment.</i>                         |

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Sections 24-62, 24-63, 24-65, 24-66, 24-67, and 24-68, are amended**  
 2 **as follows:**

3 **Sec. 24-62. Legislative findings and statement of policy.**

4           (a)    The County has a goal to ensure that everyone has a home in the County,  
 5                   and that homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring. In order to  
 6                   achieve this goal, the County will:

7                   (1)    end homelessness among veterans;

8                   (2)    end homelessness among chronically homeless individuals;

9                   (3)    end homelessness among families with children;

10                  (4)    end homelessness among unaccompanied youth;

11                  (5)    end homelessness among seniors; and

12                  (6)    end homelessness among all individuals in the County.

13           [(a)] (b)    The County Council finds that [reducing] ending and preventing  
 14                       homelessness [requires] require substantial coordination and cooperation  
 15                       among federal, state, and local governments, as well as private sector  
 16                       service providers and community organizations.

17   \*       \*       \*

18 **24-63. Definitions.**

19           When used in this Article:

20                   *[100,000 Homes Campaign* means an initiative in special needs housing  
 21                   that gives priority to placing the most vulnerable, chronically homeless  
 22                   people in permanent supportive housing through a Housing First model;]

23                   *Commission* means the Interagency Commission on Homelessness;

24                   *Continuum of Care* means a community program, established under the  
 25                   HEARTH Act, to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the

specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency; [and]

End homelessness or ending homelessness means:

(A) reaching functional zero for an identified type of homelessness; and

(B) having systems in place adequate to house all individuals entering homelessness during a specific time period.

*Housing First Initiative* means a [process for placing homeless people into housing that discourages imposing conditions on placement related to health, employment, or sobriety, and seeks to reduce the time in shelter or transitional programs and provide the needed supports to people in a permanent home] public policy approach to homeless assistance that:

(A) prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness;

(B) reduces barriers to accessing housing and other key services; and

(C) is guided by the theories that:

(i) people need basic necessities like food and housing before attending to other needs, such as employment, budgeting, or substance abuse treatment;

(ii) client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation; and

(iii) exercising a choice in housing is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving the client's life.

\* \* \*

**24-65. Members.**

- (a) The Commission has 25 members.
- (b) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as ex officio members:
  - (1) Director of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Director's designee;
  - (2) Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Chief's designee;
  - [(3) Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services of the Department of Health and Human Services;
  - (4) Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation;
  - (5)] (3) Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs or the Director's designee; and
  - [(6) Assistant Chief for Field Services of the Montgomery County Police Department; and
  - (7)] (4) A representative from the Office of the County Executive.
- (c) The Executive must invite the following to serve as ex officio members:
  - (1) A [member] Councilmember or staff member of the County Council, selected by the Council President;
  - (2) Executive Director of the Housing Opportunities Commission or the Executive Director's designee; and
  - [(3) Director of Student Services of the Montgomery County Public Schools;
  - (4) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg;

(5) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of Rockville;

(6) The Mayor or the representative of the Mayor of the City of Takoma Park;

(7) A representative of either the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs;

(8) The Montgomery County Sheriff or the representative of the County Sheriff; and

(9)] (3) A member of the County Legislative Delegation selected jointly by the Chairs of the House and Senate Delegations.

(d) The Executive must appoint [5] 4 members [that] who are representatives of [the Montgomery County Continuum of Care] government agencies.

(e) The Executive must appoint 4 members who are representatives of homeless service organizations that:

(1) prevent homelessness or assist homeless families, single adults, or youth; or

(2) help households to exit homelessness and maintain stable, permanent housing.

(f) The Executive must appoint 4 members who are representatives of private organizations that provide behavioral health, children and family services, healthcare, domestic violence services, aging and senior services, disability services, or veterans' services.

[(e)] (g) The Executive must appoint [4 members of the public];

(1) [At] at least 1 [public] member [must be] who is a homeless or formerly homeless resident of Montgomery County; [and]



- (2) at least 1 member [must be] who is a representative of a hospital or other healthcare provider located in Montgomery County;
- (3) at least 1 member who is a representative of a private philanthropic organization or foundation; and
- (4) at least 1 member who is a representative of an affordable housing developer.

(h) The Executive must appoint 2 members of the general public who are residents of the County.

[(f)] (i) The term of each non-ex officio member is 3 years. If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(j) Recommendations by the Commission.

(1) The Commission may recommend to the Executive persons to serve on the Commission under subsections (d), (e), and (f).

(2) The Executive should appoint members under subsections (d), (e), and (f) from among the persons recommended by the Commission.

**24-66. Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, compensation; [subcommittees] committees.**

(a) Each member of the Commission is a voting member.

(b) The [Executive] Commission must [designate] elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members.

(c) The Commission must meet at least 4 times each year.

(d) A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

126 [(d)] (e) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may  
 127 request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates  
 128 established by the County.

129 [(e)] (f) The Commission may establish 1 or more [subcommittees]  
 130 committees to assist in carrying out any function of the Commission.  
 131 Any [subcommittee] committee action is not the action of the  
 132 Commission and must not bind the Commission or its members. A  
 133 [subcommittee] committee may include a person who is not a member of  
 134 the Commission.

135 (g) The Commission must establish a governance committee to ensure  
 136 effective coordination of the Continuum of Care. The governance  
 137 committee must:

138 (1) be co-chaired by the Chair of the Commission and the member  
 139 appointed under Section 24-65(b)(2); and

140 (2) include the member appointed under Section 24-65(b)(3) and a  
 141 representative of each committee established under subsection (f).

## 142 **24-67. Duties.**

143 The Commission must:

144 (a) promote a community-wide goal to end and prevent homelessness;

145 (b) develop a strategic plan to prevent and [reduce] end homelessness and  
 146 minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless families and  
 147 individuals;

148 (c) review and monitor any program that is a component of the Continuum  
 149 of Care[, 100,000 Homes Campaign,] and Housing First Initiative,  
 150 including:

- (1) permanent housing, including permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing;
- (2) transitional housing;
- (3) supportive services;
- (4) homeless management information system;
- (5) homelessness prevention; [and]
- (6) emergency shelter; and
- (7) outreach;
- (d) recommend to the Executive and Council any improvements to [the Continuum of Care, including process changes, to reduce any barrier to housing and minimize the time needed to move someone from homelessness to housing] local policies to end and prevent homelessness;
- (e) educate the community about homelessness, best practices to [reduce] end and prevent homelessness, resources needed to [reduce] end and prevent homelessness, and long term savings that are achieved by providing permanent stable housing; [and]
- (f) recommend and promote partnerships with any private organization, business, corporation, philanthropic organization or foundation, and any municipal, state, or federal government agency to improve the County's ability to prevent and [reduce] end homelessness; and
- (g) establish procedures for the effective coordination of the Continuum of Care.

**24-68. Annual report.**

By November 30 of each year, the Commission must submit to the Executive and Council a report that:

- 176 (a) provides data and trends regarding homelessness, including data from the  
177 Council of Government's Point-in-Time survey [and the 100,000 Homes  
178 Campaign survey];
- 179 (b) identifies gaps in the Continuum of Care that prevent or impede the  
180 County's ability to address needs identified through the review of data on  
181 [homeless] homelessness;
- 182 (c) makes recommendations for the capital and operating budget [for the  
183 following fiscal year];
- 184 (d) makes [recommendation] recommendations for any legislative or  
185 regulatory changes needed to implement the Continuum of Care strategic  
186 plan; and
- 187 (e) reports on any educational or public outreach activities undertaken during  
188 the preceding year.

189 **Sec. 2. Transition.** Non-ex officio members of the Interagency Commission  
190 on Homelessness on the effective date of this Act continue to serve on the Commission  
191 until the end of their terms.

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 7-20

### *Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>DESCRIPTION:</b>                       | Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties  |
| <b>PROBLEM:</b>                           | Update and modify the membership and duties of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness.  |
| <b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:</b>              | Bill 7-20 would alter the membership of the Interagency Commission of Homelessness (ICH) to include fewer ex officio members and more public members. The bill would update the duties of the ICH to, among other things, prioritize ending and preventing homelessness as opposed to simply reducing homelessness. |
| <b>COORDINATION:</b>                      | Interagency Commission on Homelessness  |
| <b>FISCAL IMPACT:</b>                     | OMB   |
| <b>ECONOMIC IMPACT:</b>                   | Department of Finance   |
| <b>EVALUATION:</b>                        | To be done.   |
| <b>EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:</b>              | To be researched.   |
| <b>SOURCE OF INFORMATION:</b>             | Christine Wellons, Legislative Attorney   |
| <b>APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:</b> | N/A   |
| <b>PENALTIES:</b>                         | N/A   |



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

Richard S. Madaleno  
Director

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2020

TO: Sidney Katz, President, County Council

FROM: Richard S. Madaleno, Director, Office of Management and Budget *RSM*

SUBJECT: FIS for Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness – Membership and Duties

Please find attached the Fiscal Impact Statement for the above-referenced legislation.

RSM:cm

c: Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrative Officer  
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Caroline Sturgis, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Debbie Spielberg, Special Assistant to the County Executive  
Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive  
Lisa Austin, Office of the County Executive  
Barry Hudson, Director, Public Information Office  
Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Dennis Hetman, Department of Finance  
David Platt, Department of Finance  
Monika Coble, Office of Management and Budget  
Chrissy Mireles, Office of Management and Budget  
Deborah Lambert, Office of Management and Budget

Office of the Director

101 Monroe Street, 14th Floor • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240-777-2800  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb)

**Fiscal Impact Statement**  
**Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness - Membership and Duties**

**1. Legislative Summary**

The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) is a 25-member commission created by the County Council in 2014 to coordinate public and private programs to reduce homelessness in the County. The ICH has requested that several modifications and updates be made to its membership and duties. The purpose of these changes are to improve the governance and effectiveness of the ICH, as well as to clarify the mission of the ICH to “end and prevent” homelessness, as opposed to simply “reducing” homelessness.

Under Bill 7-20, the ICH would remain a 25-member commission, but its composition would change. At the request of the ICH, certain ex officio member slots would be replaced with more public representatives, including homeless service providers, healthcare providers, family services providers, and affordable housing providers.

**2. An estimate of changes in County revenues and expenditures regardless of whether the revenues or expenditures are assumed in the recommended or approved budget. Includes source of information, assumptions, and methodologies used.**

No changes in County revenue or expenditures are anticipated due to the bill.

**3. Revenue and expenditure estimates covering at least the next 6 fiscal years.**

No changes in County revenue or expenditures are anticipated over the next 6 fiscal years due to the bill.

**4. An actuarial analysis through the entire amortization period for each bill that would affect retiree pension or group insurance costs.**

Not Applicable.

**5. An estimate of expenditures related to County’s information technology (IT) systems, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.**

Not Applicable.

**6. Later actions that may affect future revenue and expenditures if the bill authorizes future spending.**

Bill 7-20 does not authorize future spending.

**7. An estimate of the staff time needed to implement the bill.**

There is no additional staff time needed to implement the bill.

**Fiscal Impact Statement**  
**Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission on Homelessness - Membership and Duties**

**8. An explanation of how the addition of new staff responsibilities would affect other duties.**

There is no impact on current staff responsibilities.

**9. An estimate of costs when an additional appropriation is needed.**

No additional appropriation is needed to implement Bill 7-20.

**10. A description of any variable that could affect revenue and cost estimates.**

Not applicable.

**11. Ranges of revenue or expenditures that are uncertain or difficult to project.**

Not applicable.

**12. If a bill is likely to have no fiscal impact, why that is the case.**

The Department of Health and Human Services anticipates no measurable change in workload to accommodate this change and there be no material fiscal impact.


**13. Other fiscal impacts or comments.**

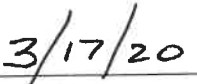
Not applicable.

**14. The following contributed to and concurred with this analysis:**

Amanda J. Harris, Chief, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness

Deborah Lambert, Office of Management and Budget

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard S. Madaleno, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Economic Impact Statement**  
**Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission Homelessness – Membership and Duties**

**Background:**

This legislation would:

- Alter the membership of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness; and
- Alter the duties of the Commission.

The goal of Bill 7-20 is to achieve the goal of the County to ensure everyone has a home in the County. To achieve this goal, the County will end homelessness among:

- Veterans;
- Chronically homeless individuals;
- Families with children;
- Unaccompanied youth; and
- Seniors.

The Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH) is a 25-member commission created to coordinate public and private programs to reduce homelessness. Bill 7-20 would maintain the 25-member commission but also improve the governance and effectiveness of ICH and clarifies its mission to end and prevent homelessness rather than reducing homelessness.

**1. The sources of information, assumptions, and methodologies used.**

There are no sources of information or assumptions and methodologies used in the preparation of the economic impact statement.

**2. A description of any variable that could affect the economic impact estimates.**

The variable that could affect the economic impact estimates are the number of homeless families and individuals noted in the background section before and after enactment of Bill 7-20.

**3. The Bill's positive or negative effect, if any on employment, spending, saving, investment, incomes, and property values in the County.**


There is no precise data on the number of homeless families or individuals in the County and therefore a specific economic impact cannot be determined. However, since the goal of Bill 7-20 is to end and prevent rather than reduce homelessness, there could be a positive economic impact on the County's employment, spending, and incomes.

**4. If a Bill is likely to have no economic impact, why is that the case?**

See paragraph 3

**Economic Impact Statement**  
**Bill 7-20, Interagency Commission Homelessness – Membership and Duties**

5. **The following contributed to and concurred with this analysis:** David Platt and Rob Hagedoorn, Finance.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Coveyou, Director  
Department of Finance

3/17/20  
Date