

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 239

BY SENATOR AZINGER, TAKUBO, AND DEEDS

[Passed February 15, 2023; in effect 90 days from passage

(May 16, 2023)]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §9-5-31, relating to requiring the Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral
3 Health to engage behavioral health providers, substance use disorder providers,
4 municipal leaders, and county government leaders to study a breakdown of homeless
5 demographic information throughout West Virginia; reporting the findings of the study to
6 the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Joint Committee
7 on Government and Finance; and providing a date report is due.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

§9-5-31. Commissioner to conduct study.

1 (a) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral Health shall engage the following
2 stakeholders: Behavioral health providers, substance use disorder providers, municipal leaders,
3 and county government leaders to study a breakdown of homeless demographic information
4 throughout West Virginia. The study shall be responsible for:

5 (1) Presenting a breakdown of homeless demographic information throughout West
6 Virginia and regionally;

7 (2) Quantifying and inventorying of homelessness resources by region;

8 (3) Conducting an epidemiological analysis of homeless populations in West Virginia;

9 (4) Identifying key metrics to measure homelessness across West Virginia in a more
10 consistent manner;

11 (5) Conducting analysis of whether West Virginia's homeless populations concentrate in
12 certain counties or municipalities and any reasons for such population concentrations;

13 (6) Determining if state policies cause the state's homeless population to relocate to
14 certain counties or municipalities;

15 (7) Determining the percentage of homeless individuals that lived in another state or
16 jurisdiction in the past three years or are from another state or jurisdiction; and

17 (8) Conducting an analysis of whether any health and human service benefits offered in
18 West Virginia attract populations that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

19 (b) On or before July 1, 2024, the commissioner shall submit a report of the findings of the
20 study to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Joint Committee
21 on Government and Finance for consideration of legislation that may be appropriate relating to
22 the homeless in West Virginia.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is this the.....
Day of, 2023.

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Governor