

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2005 to clarify the criteria for demonstrating District residency, to provide that certain third parties may verify the residency of an individual or family seeking severe weather shelter, to require that individuals and families seeking severe weather shelter be residents of the District, excluding only low-barrier shelters and victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and human trafficking; and to authorize the Mayor to place families in non-apartment-style severe weather shelters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2010".

Sec. 2. The Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 *et seq*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (32) is amended to read as follows:

"(32) Resident of the District" means an individual or family who:

“(A) Is not receiving locally-administered public assistance from a jurisdiction other than the District;

“(B) Is living in the District voluntarily and not for a temporary purpose and who has no intention of presently moving from the District, which shall be determined and applied

in accordance with section 503 of the District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982, effective April 6, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-101; D.C. Official Code § 4-205.03); and

“(C) Demonstrates residence by providing:

“(i) A mailing address in the District dated within the last two years;

“(ii) Evidence that the individual or family has applied or is receiving public assistance from the District;

(iii) Evidence that the individual or a family member is attending school in the District; or

“(iv) Written verification by a verifier who attests, to the best of the verifier’s knowledge, that the individual or family lives in the District voluntarily and not for a temporary purpose and has no intention of presently moving from the District.”.

(2) A new paragraph (41A) is added to read as follows:

“(41A) “Verifier” means a District resident or a provider who knows where an individual or family seeking severe weather shelter lives and who produces evidence of his or her own District residency by providing a:

“(A) Valid District driver's license or nondriver's identification;

“(B) District voter registration card;

“(C) Valid lease, rental agreement, rent receipt, deed, settlement papers, or mortgage statement for a residence in the District;

“(D) Valid homeowner's or renter's insurance policy for a residence in the District;

“(E) District property tax bill issued within the last 60 days;

“(F) Utility bill for water, gas, electric, oil, cable, or a land-line telephone issued within the last 60 days; or

“(G)” Pay stub issued within the last 30 days showing a District address and District withholding taxes.”.

(b) Section 7 (D.C. Official Code § 4-753.01) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (c) is amended to read as follows:

(A) Strike the phrase “any person in the District of Columbia who is homeless and cannot access other shelter” and insert the phrase “any resident of the District who is homeless and cannot access other housing arrangements” in its place.

(B) Strike the phrase “Board of Education.” and insert the phrase “Mayor. The requirement to be a resident of the District shall not apply to low-barrier shelters or victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or human trafficking” in its place.

(2) Paragraph (d) is amended to read as follows:

“(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Mayor shall not place homeless families in non-apartment-style shelters.

“(2) The Mayor is authorized to place homeless families in non-apartment-style severe weather shelters.”.

(c) Section 8a(2) (D.C. Official Code § 4-753.02(a)(2)) is amended by striking the phrase “section 503 of the District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982, effective April 6, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-101; D.C. Official Code § 4-205.03); and ” and inserting the phrase “section 2(32); and ” in its place.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02 (c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02 (c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.