

Homelessness Laws and Pending Assembly Bills

Current Statutes

2017 Assembly Bill 234 (Act 74)

- Created the Interagency Council on Homelessness. Membership of this council includes directors from the Departments of: Administration, Health Services, Children and Families, Workforce Development, Veterans Affairs, Corrections, and Public Instruction, and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

2017 Assembly Bill 236 (Act 75)

- Created a program for chronically homeless individuals and families through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. The program gives priority to chronically homeless individuals and families on the waiting list for housing choice vouchers. Case management services may also be provided to those who receive a voucher.

Pending Bills

2019 Assembly Bill 119

- This bill would increase state grant funding for homeless shelters by \$500,000 each year over the next two years and add performance metrics to help incentivize shelters to move people into stable housing. Grant funds may also be awarded to a facility or private home that provides shelter for domestic abuse victims. It also directs the Department of Health Services to request a federal Medicaid waiver to allow the funds to be used for case management services to get homeless people into permanent housing.
 - Final version of the bill passed both the Assembly and Senate on January 21, 2020.

2019 Assembly Bill 121

- This bill would create a "housing navigator" grant program that connects homeless individuals and families to landlords with available housing. The bill provides \$300,000 in the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - The Senate Committee on Utilities & Housing held a hearing on August 13, 2019.

2019 Assembly Bill 122

- This bill would require state and local workforce development boards to include an advocate from a local homeless response system, and to consider homeless job seekers in their workforce development plans.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development.

2019 Assembly Bill 123

- The bill would increase funding for housing and associated supportive services to homeless individuals and families from \$300,000 per year to \$1.2 million per year. In addition to local governments and non-profits, American Indian tribes and bands will be eligible for these grants.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.

- The Senate Committee on Utilities & Housing held a hearing on August 13, 2019.

2019 Assembly Bill 144

- This bill would increase funding from \$250,000 to \$500,000 in each of the next two years for skills enhancement grants for homeless individuals.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - Referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development.

2019 Assembly Bill 125

- This bill would establish a program to award loans to owners of rental housing units to assist with meeting housing quality standards. It appropriates \$1 million in the current fiscal year and makes a continuing appropriation of amounts received from loan repayments.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - The Senate Committee on Utilities & Housing held a hearing on August 13, 2019.

2019 Assembly Bill 120

- This bill would increase grant funding for shelter facilities from \$500,000 per fiscal year to \$1 million each fiscal year, using federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). It also removes the limit on the number of grants awarded (previous limit was 10 grants) and increases the maximum amount of each grant from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - The Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations held a hearing on September 10, 2019.

2019 Assembly Bill 124

- This bill would increase funding for the homeless prevention program from \$1.5 million per fiscal year to \$2 million per fiscal year. It also increases funding by \$300,000 for each of the next two fiscal years to help homeless individuals find immediate, safe housing arrangements in the person's support system, instead of using temporary shelters.
 - Passed Assembly on June 18, 2019.
 - The Senate Committee on Utilities & Housing held a hearing on August 13, 2019.