

HB 503 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

8Apr2021... 0678h

2021 SESSION

21-0659

05/10

HOUSE BILL

**503**

AN ACT               codifying the council on housing stability.

SPONSORS:       Rep. Long, Hills. 10; Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 42

COMMITTEE:     Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill codifies the council on housing stability initially established by the governor in Executive Order 2020-22.

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Explanation:     Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                      Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                      Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

30 (f) The director of the division for children, youth and families, or designee.

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1 (g) One representative of each of New Hampshire's Continuum of Care, appointed by  
2 each continuum.

3 (h) A representative of the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

4 (i) A representatives of a local educational agency.

5 (j) A representative of the department of education responsible for programs for children  
6 experiencing homelessness.

7 (k) A representative of the NH Landlord Association.

8 (l) A representative of NH Builder's Association.

9 (m) A representative of local providers of housing services.

10 (n) A representative of Housing Action New Hampshire.

11 (o) A representative of a county economic development council.

12 (p) A representative of the Community Behavioral Health Association, appointed by the  
13 association.

14 (q) A representative of the faith based community.

15 (r) A representative of a member agency of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and  
16 Sexual Violence, nominated by the coalition.

17 (s) Two representatives of the philanthropic community with expertise in housing  
18 instability.

19 (t) A representative of the business community with an interest in affordable housing.

20 (u) Three legislators, one appointed by the governor, one appointed by the senate  
21 president, and one appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

22 (v) Any other individual or representative of an organization or entity that the governor  
23 deems appropriate to support the work of the council.

24 (w) Three mayors, or their designees, representing different regions of New Hampshire.

25 (x) A representative from a law enforcement agency.

26 II. Additional members are appointed as follows:

27 (a) One representative of Waypoint, appointed by that organization.

28 (b) One representative of NAMI NH, appointed by that organization.

29 (c) One municipal welfare director, appointed by the New Hampshire Welfare  
30 Association.

31 (d) One representative of Families in Transition, appointed by that organization.

32 (e) One representative of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, appointed by that  
33 organization.

34 (f) One representative of Harbor Homes, Inc., appointed by that organization.

35 (g) One representative of the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness, appointed  
36 by the coalition.

37 (h) One representative of the NH Providers Association, appointed by that organization.

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1 (i) One representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by  
2 the association.

3 III. The council is authorized to perform its work virtually. If physical meeting is necessary,  
4 legislative members of the council shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the  
5 duties of the council. The council may form subcommittees as necessary in the course of its work.

6 4-H:3 Duties; Quorum; Authority to Accept Grants.

7 I. The council on housing stability shall develop and monitor a plan which makes  
8 recommendations to address and/or undertake the following:

9 (a) Necessary measures to strengthen New Hampshire's housing market and to create  
10 housing stability for all citizens.

11 (b) Conduct an affordable housing needs assessment in each county to determine the  
12 housing deficit.

13 (c) The barriers to affordable housing and what can be done to remove such barriers.

14 (d) The necessary system of care to support individuals and families to obtain and  
15 maintain stable housing.

16 (e) Integrate and coordinate a housing stability governance structure across state  
17 government and connect to local communities by conducting ongoing needs assessment and strategic  
18 planning.

19 (f) Enhance the interoperability of data systems within and across government agencies  
20 to inform and monitor program and service access, equity, and quality.

21 (g) Have housing options available throughout citizens' lifespans, based on the needs  
22 and desire people have at different times of their life.

23 (h) Develop a comprehensive update to the state's plan on homelessness which shall  
24 include, but not be limited to:

25 (1) Reviewing the coordinated services currently administered in New Hampshire,  
26 including outreach, treatment, and transitional to independence services.

27 (2) Reviewing housing availability for unsheltered individuals.

28 (3) Identifying the number of children experiencing homelessness, the adequacy of  
29 available services, and shelter options.

30 (4) Identifying the number of veterans experiencing homelessness, the adequacy of  
31 available services, and shelter options.

32 (5) Reviewing non-government service agencies and their involvement in their  
33 communities.

34 (6) Identifying public and private programs that effectively address and prevent  
35 homelessness, the ability of those programs to meet the need for assistance, and potential funding  
36 sources for expansion, if appropriate.

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1                   (7) Reviewing the state of New Hampshire's regional capacity in shelters and  
2 programs in addressing homelessness.

3                   (8) Exploring national models that successfully address and mitigate homelessness.

4                   II. The council on housing stability shall be led by the department of health and human  
5 services, the department of business and economic affairs, and the New Hampshire community  
6 development finance authority.

7                   III. A majority of the appointed council members shall constitute a quorum and all official  
8 actions of the council shall require a majority vote of those present and voting.

9                   IV. The council may accept grants and other assistance to support its work, contingent upon  
10 the approval of the governor and executive council. Such items may be brought forward by any state  
11 agency that is represented on the council.

12                   4-H:4 Reporting Requirement.

13                   I. The council on housing stability shall submit its initial report and action plan, dated  
14 December 14, 2020, to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the  
15 house clerk, the senate clerk, and the state library. The council shall report its final plan to the  
16 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate  
17 clerk, the governor, and the state library at its earliest convenience.

18                   II. Thereafter, on or before November 1, the council shall provide an annual report of its  
19 activities and the status of the plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the state to the  
20 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate  
21 clerk, the governor, and the state library.

22                   3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.