



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5235

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF ENCAMPMENTS ON PROPERTY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Removal" means the clearing of an encampment, or a portion
3 thereof, by the Department of Transportation or an agent or contractor
4 of the department and includes, but is not limited to, requiring persons
5 to vacate the property and collecting, relocating, discarding or disposing
6 of any structures or materials used for habitation and personal property;

7 (2) "Encampment" means any outdoor location where one or more
8 persons sleep, reside or store personal property using tents, tarps,
9 bedding or other temporary shelter or structures for the purposes of
10 habitation. "Encampment" does not include a campground or other
11 location that is designated or authorized for recreational camping by a
12 federal, state or municipal agency or by a private property owner and
13 where camping occurs; and

14 (3) "Personal property" means an item that can reasonably be
15 identified as belonging to a person, has apparent value or utility and is
16 not hazardous.

17 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, prior to the
18 removal of an encampment located upon any state highway right-of-
19 way or real property owned by the state and in the custody and control
20 of the Department of Transportation, the department shall provide at
21 least fourteen days' written notice that specifies the date and time such
22 removal will take place and that no person or personal property is
23 permitted to remain on the state highway right-of-way or real property
24 after such date. The department shall, at a minimum, post any such
25 notice at the apparent place of ingress and egress to the encampment
26 and at any apparent common area of the encampment. Such notice shall
27 be printed in English and Spanish. When posting such notice, the
28 department may provide oral or written notice to any person present at
29 the encampment.

30 (c) The notice required by subsection (b) of this section shall not be
31 required if the Commissioner of Transportation determines the removal
32 of an encampment is necessary to respond to any transportation
33 operations or infrastructure emergency or a public safety emergency.
34 The commissioner shall document, in writing, the reasons for such
35 determination.

36 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "removal",
37 "encampment" and "personal property" have the same meanings as
38 provided in section 1 of this act.

39 (b) The Commissioners of Transportation and Mental Health and
40 Addiction Services shall jointly study and make recommendations
41 regarding best practices and standards to adhere to when responding
42 to, managing or removing an encampment upon any state highway
43 right-of-way or real property owned by the state and in the custody and
44 control of the Department of Transportation.

45 (c) Such study shall, at a minimum, identify: (1) Best practices from
46 other states or municipalities regarding (A) the provision of advance
47 notices concerning the removal of an encampment to a person residing
48 at such encampment, including methods and reasonable timeframes for

49 providing such notices and the frequency of such notices, and (B) the
50 treatment of personal property during a removal of an encampment, (2)
51 procedures for outreach and engagement by trained personnel that
52 ensure respect for the personal dignity and property of persons at such
53 encampments, (3) appropriate state and local agencies to offer
54 immediate assistance and support to such persons for emergency
55 shelters, transitional housing or permanent housing, social services or
56 other interventions prior to and during the removal of an encampment,
57 (4) guidance, training or technical assistance that could be provided to
58 state and local agencies and municipalities regarding humane and
59 effective practices for responding to, managing and removing such
60 encampments, and (5) ways to ensure coordination with the
61 municipality where the encampment is located, community-based
62 organizations serving persons experiencing homelessness, local
63 housing authorities, other local service providers and the local law
64 enforcement agency, as appropriate, prior to the removal of an
65 encampment.

66 (d) Not later than January 15, 2027, the Commissioners of
67 Transportation and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall jointly
68 submit, in accordance with provisions of section 11-4a of the general
69 statutes, the results of such study and any recommendations to the joint
70 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
71 matters relating to transportation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

HSG *Joint Favorable*