



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Substitute Bill No. 5370



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL RESPITE PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2026, the
2 Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner
3 of Public Health, shall establish a five-year medical respite pilot
4 program for homeless persons in the state. The commissioner shall
5 select four cities in which to implement the pilot program based on
6 community need, existing infrastructure and community interest in
7 participation.

8 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene a pilot
9 program planning group that includes, but is not limited to, a
10 representative from a local hospital providing services to homeless
11 individuals in each of the four selected cities and a nonprofit
12 organization dedicated to serving individuals experiencing
13 homelessness in each of the four selected cities.

14 (c) The planning group shall design a medical respite pilot program
15 that serves not less than one hundred fifty persons who require
16 recuperative medical care but whose medical needs do not require
17 hospitalization. The planning group shall pursue public and private
18 funding sources for the medical respite pilot program.

19 (d) The medical respite pilot program shall operate until July 1, 2031,

20 and shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) At least two, but up to
21 four, units equipped to provide care to persons with a projected average
22 length of stay of four weeks, (2) twenty-four-hour supervision of
23 persons in the pilot program, (3) referrals to health care providers, and
24 (4) case management services, including the provision of housing and
25 support opportunities to help such persons avert homelessness.

26 (e) Not later than October 1, 2027, the planning group established
27 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall submit a report, in
28 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
29 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
30 matters relating to housing, human services, public health and
31 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The report shall
32 include, but need not be limited to: (1) The number of persons served
33 since the start of the medical respite pilot program, (2) a fiscal analysis
34 of projected Medicaid cost savings related to a decrease in hospital
35 admissions and other health care costs for persons served by the pilot
36 program, (3) recommendations on whether the pilot program should be
37 expanded, and (4) potential funding sources to expand the pilot
38 program.

39 (f) Not later than October 1, 2031, the Commissioner of Social Services
40 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
41 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
42 having cognizance of matters relating to housing, human services,
43 public health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The
44 report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The number of
45 persons served over the course of the program, (2) a fiscal analysis of
46 overall Medicaid cost savings related to a decrease in hospital
47 admissions and other health care costs for persons served by the pilot
48 program, and (3) any recommendations concerning whether the
49 program should be extended or made permanent.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (f), "Department" was changed to "Commissioner" and Subsec. (f)(3) was reworded for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

HSG *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*