

By: Representative Summers

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1346

1 AN ACT TO THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS IS
2 CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FACILITATE AND
3 IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES RELATED TO DECREASING HOMELESSNESS AND
4 UNNECESSARY INSTITUTIONALIZATION IN THIS STATE, IMPROVE HEALTH AND
5 HUMAN SERVICES OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS,
6 AND STRENGTHEN THE SAFETY NETS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOUSING
7 STABILITY; TO PRESCRIBE THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE
8 FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE
9 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE
10 REGARDING THE TASK FORCE'S WORK DURING THE PRIOR YEAR AND ANY NEW
11 RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE TASK FORCE; TO CREATE THE
12 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT
13 OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ADVISE THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON
14 HOMELESSNESS ON ITS MISSION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TASK
15 FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL; TO
16 PROVIDE THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO
17 THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS EACH YEAR; AND FOR
18 RELATED PURPOSES.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

20 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
21 is created within the Department of Human Services to facilitate
22 and implement initiatives related to decreasing homelessness and
23 unnecessary institutionalization in this state, improve health and
24 human services outcomes for people who experience homelessness,
25 and strengthen the safety nets that contribute to housing
26 stability. The task force shall:



27 (a) Develop a state plan to address homelessness and
28 unnecessary institutionalization with the goals of achieving
29 functional zero homelessness, improving health and human services
30 outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, and strengthening
31 the safety nets that contribute to housing stability;

32 (b) Recommend policy, regulatory, and resource changes
33 necessary to accomplish goals and objectives laid out in the State
34 Plan;

35 (c) Serve within state government and in the state at
36 large as an advocate for people experiencing homelessness;

37 (d) Provide leadership for and collaborate with those
38 developing and implementing local plans to end homelessness in
39 Mississippi, including, but not limited to, the Community Advisory
40 Council and its members;

41 (e) Recommend the resources needed for successful
42 implementation and oversee that implementation;

43 (f) Recommend and promote effective interagency
44 collaboration and system integration to converge related efforts;
45 and

46 (g) Recommend needed policy, regulatory, and resource
47 distribution changes; make oversight recommendations that will
48 ensure accountability, results, and sustained success; and develop
49 specific proposals and recommendations for action to provide to
50 the Governor and the Legislature.



51 (2) The task force may solicit feedback from stakeholders,
52 customers, and advocates to inform task force recommendations as
53 necessary.

54 (3) The task force shall be composed of the following
55 members:

56 (a) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
57 Services or his or her designee, who shall be the chair of the
58 task force;

59 (b) The Executive Director of the State Department of
60 Mental Health or his or her designee;

61 (c) The Executive Director of the State Department of
62 Health or his or her designee;

63 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of Child
64 Protection Services or his or her designee;

65 (e) The State Superintendent of Public Education or his
66 or her designee;

67 (f) The Commissioner of the Department of Public
68 Safety or his or her designee;

69 (g) The Executive Director of the Department of
70 Corrections or his or her designee;

71 (h) The Executive Director of the Department of Finance
72 and Administration or his or her designee;

73 (i) The Executive Director of the Department of
74 Employment Security or his or her designee;



75 (j) The Executive Director of the Veterans Affairs
76 Board or his or her designee;
77 (k) The Commissioner of Higher Education or his or her
78 designee;
79 (l) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Community
80 College Board or his or her designee;
81 (m) The Director of the Administrative Office of Courts
82 or his or her designee;
83 (n) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Home
84 Corporation or his or her designee;
85 (o) The Executive Director of Accelerate Mississippi or
86 his or her designee;
87 (p) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the
88 Lieutenant Governor;
89 (q) One (1) member of the House of Representatives
90 appointed by the Speaker.
91 (r) The Minority Leader of the House or his or her
92 designee; and
93 (s) The Minority Leader of the Senate or his or her
94 designee.
95 (4) The chair of the task force may appoint additional
96 representatives from state agencies as needed.
97 (5) The task force shall meet at the call of the chair, at
98 least four (4) times per year. Members of the task force shall
99 serve without compensation.



100 (6) On or before December 1, 2025, and each year thereafter,
101 the task force shall submit a report to the Governor and the
102 Legislature regarding the task force's work during the prior year,
103 any new recommendations developed by the task force, any
104 recommendations made by the Community Advisory Council on
105 Homelessness, and any key outcomes and measures related to
106 homelessness.

107 (7) The task force may establish subcommittees to address
108 specific issues or populations and may collaborate with
109 individuals with relevant expertise who are not members of the
110 task force to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its duties.

111 (8) The Department of Human Services shall provide staff and
112 administrative support to the task force.

113 (9) Nothing in this section shall be construed to contravene
114 any federal or state law or regulation. Unless specifically
115 referenced in this section, nothing in this section shall affect
116 or alter the existing statutory powers of any state agency or be
117 construed as a reassignment or reorganization of any state agency.

118 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Community Advisory Council on
119 Homelessness is created within the Department of Human Services to
120 advise the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness on its mission
121 to achieve functional zero homelessness in the state and make
122 recommendations to the task force regarding homelessness and
123 unnecessary institutionalization, improving health and human
124 services outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and



strengthening the safety nets that contribute to housing stability.

(2) The members of the advisory council shall be appointed by the Governor and shall consist of diverse stakeholders and shall be geographically diverse to represent the needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities across Mississippi, and shall reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. Members of the advisory council shall include, but not be limited to, individuals with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, and representatives from the following organizations: Disability Rights Mississippi, Shower Power, Community Foundation for Mississippi, NAMI Mississippi, Mississippi Housing Partnership, Central Mississippi Continuum of Care, Mississippi United to End Homelessness (MUTEH), Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Reaching and Educating for Community Hope (RECH) Foundation, Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs, and Jackson Resource Center.

(3) The meetings of the advisory council shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff and administrative support to assist the advisory council in carrying out its duties.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to contravene any federal or state law or regulation. Unless specifically



referenced in this section, nothing in this section shall affect
or alter the existing statutory powers of any state agency or be
construed as a reassignment or reorganization of any state agency.

(5) On or before November 15, 2025, and each year
thereafter, the advisory council shall submit recommendations to
the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after its passage.

