



Senate Aging & Youth Committee

Senator Randy Vulakovich, Chairman

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Bill Summary

Bill Number: HB 2204, P.N. 3526

Prime Sponsor: Simmons

Prepared By: Nathan Silcox

Date: June 9, 2014

A. Synopsis

HB 2204 would amend the Early Intervention Services System Act by providing for the eligibility of Homeless Infants and Toddlers.

B. Summary of Legislation

HB 2024 would amend Section 103 (Definitions) by adding the definition of "Homeless" as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

(1) Children and youth in any of the following:

- (i) Who are sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- (ii) Who are living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- (iii) Who are living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
- (iv) Who are abandoned in a hospital;
- (v) Who are awaiting foster care placement;
- (vi) Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or a private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; and
- (vii) Who are living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station or similar setting.

(2) Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this chapter because the child is living in one of the circumstances in paragraph (1).

The bill would amend Section 305 (Child Identification, Assessment and Tracking) by adding "homeless children."

HB 2204 would take effect immediately.

C. Summary of Relevant Existing Law

Under the Early Intervention Act, the Department of Public Welfare currently identifies, assesses, and tracks the following population groups: (1) children whose birth weight is less than 1,500 grams; (2) children cared for in neonatal intensive care units of hospitals; (3) children born to chemically dependent mothers and referred by a physician, health care provider or parent; (4) children who are seriously abused or neglected, as substantiated and referred by the county children and youth agency; and (5) children with confirmed dangerous levels of lead poisoning as set by the Department of Health. This bill would add Homeless Children as a sixth category.

D. Additional Information

This legislation is a part of the United Way's Campaign for What Works agenda and is supported by the Department of Public Welfare. HB 2204 was unanimously passed by the House and is similar to SB 1406, introduced by Sen. McIlhinney.