

H.B. 298 HOMELESS SERVICES AMENDMENTS



ABOUT THIS BILL

Utah's homeless population is among the most vulnerable in the state. The trending increase in homelessness over the years is of great concern to the Legislature. One of the biggest challenges in reversing this trend has been the lack of effective data surrounding this population. This piece of Legislation will help agencies collect and track data, and increase transparency and accountability by bringing all funding and governance under one roof.

CHANGES THE EXISTING
COUNCIL FROM

29  **9**

MEMBERS, WITH AN ADDITIONAL
NON VOTING MEMBER TO

**STREAMLINE
EFFECTIVENESS**

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE UTAH HOMELESS BOARD?

- Regularly update the state strategic plan on homelessness to reflect proven strategies to reduce homelessness among the unsheltered, the persistently homeless, and the situationally homeless.
- Develop annual state and local goals for reducing homelessness
- Develop accountability systems that measure provider effectiveness towards helping clients progress out of homelessness
- Adopt rules and policies to guide the administration of services to people experiencing homelessness in Utah
- Approve strategic plans developed by local homelessness councils.
- Identify best practices for responding to unsheltered individual's experiencing mental illness and substance abuse disorder
- Adopt and promote strategies to enforce illegal drug use within homeless shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing
- Facilitate client connection to alternative support systems including behavioral health, addiction recovery, and residential services.
- Authorize the distribution of funds distributed by the department to local homelessness councils.
- Distribute funds to local homelessness councils based on their performance in reaching goals to reduce homelessness.