

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB415

Bill as Introduced

SB 415-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2897

05/08

SENATE BILL ***415-FN-A***

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

SPONSORS: Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Rep. Ames, Ches. 9; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Finance

ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Appropriation; Homeless Shelters. In addition to any other amounts appropriated, the sum of
2 \$9,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$9,000,000 for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2023, are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for
4 the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters to \$20 per person, per night. The governor
5 is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
6 appropriated.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect June 30, 2022.

**SB 415-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$0	\$0
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

METHODOLOGY:

This bill appropriates \$9 million in FY22 and \$9 million in FY23 for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters to \$20 per night. The Department of Health and Human Services provided information during the FY22/23 budget process stating that these would be the amounts necessary to raise rates above the budgeted figure of \$8.80 per night. Although the bill contains an appropriation in FY22, it does not contain language making that appropriation nonlapsing, so it is likely that only the FY23 appropriation will be available to the Department for the purposes of the bill.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services

Committee Minutes

ATTENDANCE

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

Finance

48

START: 2:44 pm

STOP: 3:32 pm

- ✓ Sen Gary Daniels, Chair
- ✓ Sen John Reagan, Vice Chair
- ✓ Sen Bob Giuda, Member
- ✓ Sen Erin Hennessey, Member
- ✓ Sen Chuck Morse, Member
- ✓ Sen Lou D'Allesandro, Member
- ✓ Sen Cindy Rosenwald, Member

Date: December 29, 2021

HEARINGS

Tuesday

01/25/2022

Finance	(Day)	(Date)	State House 103	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)			(Place)	(Time)

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1:00 p.m. | SB 387-FN-A | making an appropriation to the body-worn and dashboard camera fund. |
| 1:10 p.m. | SB 402-FN | granting disaster relief for two presidentially declared disasters in response to July-August 2021 flood damage sustained by communities in Cheshire and Sullivan counties. |
| 1:20 p.m. | SB 415-FN-A | making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters. |
| 1:30 p.m. | SB 412-FN-A | making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for nursing home reimbursement rates. |

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

SB 387-FN-A

Sen. Kahn	Sen. Whitley	Sen. Watters	Sen. Sherman
Sen. Gannon	Sen. Prentiss	Sen. Soucy	Rep. Cushing
Rep. Porter			

SB 402-FN

Sen. Kahn	Sen. Watters	Sen. Avard	Sen. Ward
Sen. Sherman	Sen. Ricciardi	Sen. Whitley	Sen. Rosenwald
Sen. Prentiss	Sen. Soucy	Rep. Ames	Rep. Weber
Rep. Parshall	Rep. Aron	Rep. Steven Smith	

SB 415-FN-A

Sen. Kahn	Sen. Sherman	Sen. Whitley	Sen. Watters
Sen. Rosenwald	Rep. Ames	Sen. Cavanaugh	Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Sen. D'Allesandro	Sen. Soucy	Rep. Amanda Bouldin

SB 412-FN-A

Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. D'Allesandro	Sen. Hennessey	Sen. Bradley
Sen. Kahn	Sen. Giuda	Sen. Reagan	Rep. Wallner
Rep. Nordgren	Rep. Rogers		

Deb Martone 271-4980

Gary L. Daniels
Chairman

Senate Finance Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

SB 415-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

Hearing Date: January 25, 2022

Time Opened: 2:44 p.m.

Time Closed: 3:32 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Daniels, Reagan, Giuda, Hennessey, Morse, D'Allesandro and Rosenwald

Bill Analysis: This bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters

Sponsors:

Sen. Kahn

Sen. Sherman

Sen. Whitley

Sen. Watters

Sen. Rosenwald

Rep. Ames

Sen. Cavanaugh

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Soucy

Rep. Amanda Bouldin

Who supports the bill: Senators Jay Kahn, Donna Soucy, David Watters, Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Kevin Cavanaugh, Cindy Rosenwald and Tom Sherman; Representative Michael Pedersen; Karen Hebert and Melissa Hatfield (NH Department of Health and Human Services); Elissa Margolin (Housing Action NH); Stephanie Savard (Families in Transition); Will Arvelo (Crossroads House); JoAnn Fenton; Mary Pleasanton; Nancy Kelley-Gillard; Andrea Polizos; Cheryl Kahn; Marcia Kayser; Louise Anderson; Tracey Kalvaitis; Joanne Casino; Rosamond Cady; Laurie Jameson; Barbara Bryce; John White; David Blair; Chuck Rhoades; Janet Lucas; Karen Campbell; Revered Doctor Gail Kinney; Karen Dewey; Michael Fraysse; Susan Richman; Paula Hurley; Kit Lord; Linda Burnap; Mark Lord; Bonnie Hill; Amy Erickson; Lois Cote; Elizabeth Lewis; Michelle Clancy; Kate Coon; Denise Clark; Benjamin Stinson; Randy Hayes; Marie Straiton; Margaret Keeler; William Maddocks.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Kahn, Prime Sponsor:

- The Finance Committee has studied homeless shelter funding in the past year.
- We need to focus on the need for improved funding for homeless shelters, and improve the support for those facilities.
- This last year there were 350,000+ bed nights in homeless shelters across the state. It is a startling number.
- We are reimbursing at a rate per bed per night that is approximately \$8.20. Local shelters report their cost per bed per night is closer to \$46.

- There are approximately 40 homeless shelter facilities around the state. They haven't experienced any change in state aid in per night funding since 2018. But they certainly have experienced increased occupancy. They have to focus their fundraising efforts on their operating needs. They can't redirect their efforts towards the other kinds of subsidies this population needs, such as childcare, education, transportation and employment readiness skills.
- The underfunding is also leading to a staffing turnover, and the inability to properly maintain these facilities. Due to the usage of these facilities, they need to be properly maintained.
- Due to the lack of staff, the homeless individual/caseworker ratio is 50:1 at these facilities. That is not the type of support this population requires.
- SB 415-FN-A seeks to improve the per bed per night rate of reimbursement to local shelters.
- Our role in government is to help those when they need help and can't provide for themselves.
- This is not just about the population in our cities. These are regional shelters. Facilities in larger cities become a drop-off point for the homeless in smaller towns. It is a stressed system. Our homeless shelters help alleviate other government costs. It would be much more expensive than what these shelters require.
- Senator Kahn introduced Amendment #2022-0253s which corrects an error in the original bill re the FY 2022 appropriation not lapsing until June 30, 2023.
- Please direct an additional \$9 million to homeless shelter services through DHHS in both this year and next year's budget.
- Senator Giuda was looking to confirm the appropriation is for \$9 million in FY 2022 and FY 2023. We didn't lapse the appropriation for FY 2022; perhaps there is one in the budget already. He does not want to give \$18 million one year and \$9 million the next. Senator Kahn estimated the current year appropriation is \$3.2 million. Senator Giuda wondered if that \$3.2 million is \$8.20 per bed per night. Senator Kahn agreed it is.
- Senator Rosenwald informed Senator Kahn this item came up in the Fiscal Committee meeting last week. It was brought forth because we had not appropriated any increase in shelter rates in the current budget. We actually cut shelter funding by almost \$2 million. The Department had promised to come to Fiscal by last summer and present a plan to improve shelter funding. They have not. Last week they informed the Fiscal Committee they do not have the resources to develop such a plan.
- Senator Giuda reiterated we appropriated \$3.2 million for this year. Why would we not just appropriate \$5.8 million, which is a total of \$9 million? That would make it more consistent with the Legislature's intent. Senator Kahn stated that was an alternative. He wanted to hear the Department's response to the question. The appropriation would need to cover both FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Senator Donna Soucy:

- This issue is one we continue to grapple with. It was something we tried to deal with in the budget. The Department said it would come back. They did come back at Fiscal. But this is an ongoing problem. It's a significant problem that

pre-dates the pandemic. The pandemic exacerbated the condition. Not only were there requirements to socially distance individuals, which has created a greater problem with respect to capacity. In addition to that the costs, i.e., providing PPE and more sanitation, have caused all of these facilities to spend a great deal more in their operating budgets. It's made the problem even worse. On top of that, evictions are increasing. Our vacancy rate is now at .06 percent. There is no vacancy to speak of, certainly not anything affordable. This creates even more pressure on the homeless community.

- The cost for emergency shelter for an adult in Manchester currently is \$30 per day. For a family shelter the cost is \$76 per day
- For shelters across the state the average per day cost is approximately \$47. These costs are much higher than the \$8 the state is making available.
- We didn't have all the answers at the time of the budget. We do have additional funds we could use to address this problem.

Karen Hebert, Director, DHHS Economic and Housing Stability Division:

- Ms. Hebert has only been Division Director for the past three weeks.
- She distributed information detailing the budget for the last two bienniums and the current biennium in respect to shelters.
- The amount of shelters they budget for is calculated by the amount of General Funds received by the Department specifically for the shelters. That number is divided by the number of available beds statewide. They conduct official bed counts once every three years, with another due very soon. The count remains relatively stagnant through that period of time. The information also lists the shelters the Department contracts with. Not every shelter in the state is included in the list.
- It is hoped the appropriations included in SB 415-FN-A may lead other shelters to contract with the state to receive the support.
- The Department is in favor of this bill. They had previously made such a request during budget deliberations but it was denied.
- These shelters are receiving the balance of their funding through other sources such as philanthropy and donations, which is challenging for them. Other challenges include recruitment and retention, and maintenance of the shelters.

Melissa Hatfield, Bureau Chief, DHHS Bureau of Housing Supports:

- Over the past biennium they were forced to stop funding a few shelters due to lack of funding. The reimbursement rate is too low. Most of those same shelters closed.
- Senator Hennessey asked for clarification of the information on each side of the distributed document. Bureau Chief Hatfield explained the front side of the document lists the FY 2018/2019 and FY 2020/2021 bienniums which include funding for 2-1-1 and the Belknap and Merrimack CAP programs. The backside lists the current biennium funding.
- Senator Rosenwald pointed out it appears this biennium we are funding approximately half of what was funded in the last two bienniums.
- Senator Giuda inquired if these facilities have other sources of funding. What would the actual funding of each bed be? Does the Department have a way of

determining that? The Department noted it would not be able to give committee members that information today.

- Senator Hennessey sought clarification that the information distributed is solely shelter funding, and that the Department is not sending separate funding to individual town welfare departments. The Department stated Senator Hennessey is correct.
- Senator D'Allesandro wondered if the CAPs who did not receive state funding discontinued their shelters. Bureau Chief Hatfield explained the Department received a different source of funding for eviction prevention, which was the priority of many of the CAPs. Some of the larger CAPs used State General Funds for funding of hotel rooms for temporary shelter. Manchester, for example, is mainly Families in Transition. Nashua would be the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Senator D'Allesandro asked for an explanation as to the disparity of funding from year to year. Is it based on the appropriation? Bureau Chief Hatfield indicated the situation Senator D'Allesandro alluded to, Families in Transition, actually merged with New Horizons. But also, in FY 2020 the Department changed their methodology and paid per person served. Unfortunately, they quickly ran out of funding. Families in Transition served a greater number of individuals and the Department had to change their allocation method in FY 2021 to a limited amount of funding per year. Senator D'Allesandro commented that what on first blush appeared to be a lack of funding to an entity, was actually the transition of funding from one entity to another. He suggested such action be noted as such. Director Hebert apologized for the confusion caused by the form she had distributed. A more formal report would have preempted many of the committee members' questions.

JoAnn Fenton:

- The issue of homelessness is one Ms. Fenton knows very well. She was part of the first emergency shelter in Keene many years ago. She was also involved with the original team that opened Hundred Nights, the current emergency shelter and drop-in resource center. She has been a long time volunteer at Hundred Nights on the overnight shift and has gotten to know many of its guests.
- As a child, Ms. Fenton herself was homeless for a time. She has vivid memories of that time period. She remembers the shame and sense of powerlessness she felt, and has never forgotten that experience.
- In 2019 Hundred Nights received a total of \$32,109 for six months from the state. Their total budget at the time was \$367,246. Each bed night cost the shelter \$25.37. In 2020 Hundred Nights received a total of \$123,653 for the entire year. Their 2020 total budget was \$717,903, a huge jump due to COVID shelter modifications and more staff. Each bed night of shelter cost Hundred Nights \$41.75. In 2021 Hundred Nights received a total of \$104,968 in state shelter grants for the entire year. The shelter provided 12,105 bed nights of shelter, basic amenities and case management to 233 individuals. Their 2021 budget was \$849,020. Each bed night of shelter cost them \$47.15. Last year Hundred Nights received an average of \$8.67 per bed night of shelter from the state. That is a \$38.48 shortfall for each bed night.

- Homeless shelters definitely need more funding assistance to be able to continue to provide services. The staff, Board and volunteers spend precious time trying to raise funds. This time could be spent fulfilling its mission to address the issues of homelessness.
- These shelters are not just a roof over someone's head. In addition to housing, they provide help in finding jobs, education in job training, receiving treatment for a chronic health issue, mental illness and substance abuse. They serve a wide area.
- As opposed to common misconceptions, individuals living in shelters are employed, and do find housing in which to live.
- Where would we be if there were no shelters for the most vulnerable among us? We can't go back to individuals freezing in tents or sleeping in cold cars.
- Senator Giuda inquired as to the percentage of Hundred Nights' total budget funding that is provided by the state. Ms. Fenton replied she did not have access to such information as she is a volunteer at the shelter.

Will Arvelo, Executive Director, Crossroads House:

- Crossroads House has a capacity of 100 beds per night inclusive of up to 12 families. It is a low barrier shelter, meaning it takes in anyone who walks off the street, except in cases of arsonists and sexual offenders.
- Pre-COVID, they housed up to 130 per night. Their numbers fluctuate on weather temperature. In accordance with CDC guidelines on social distancing, they currently house 70-80 individuals per night.
- Their current waiting list is 40 males, 30 females and 20 families.
- On an annual basis they have approximately 37,000 bed nights.
- Crossroads currently operates with a combination of fundraising and volunteers.
- They are a full service organization. Residents must go through an intake process, and are assigned case managers to identify needs and obstacles for establishing permanent housing.
- Due to the lack of appropriate and affordable housing on the Seacoast, which has led to a serious bottleneck to Crossroads' ability to place individuals and families in permanent housing, several years ago they purchased a facility that permanently houses 12 former Crossroads' residents.
- Crossroads House operates 24/7/365.
- Pre-COVID, they paid their front line staff \$12.00 per hour. For those employees with no experience they now pay \$15.50 per hour for a day shift; \$17.00 per hour for the overnight shift.
- Shelters like Crossroads are not there just to house individuals overnight. They work with individuals and families up to two years to obtain permanent housing. It is a significant challenge.
- Permanent, supportive housing models are the way to go if we are to get more of our unhoused population in homes permanently. These lead to more successful outcomes and lessen the burden on municipal emergency services and hospital emergency rooms when people live in a permanent state of homelessness.
- Two-thirds of their budget is fundraising. The remaining comes from local, state and federal resources. They do seek a small amount of funding from each community they serve in the Seacoast.

- The pressure to fund raise is constant.
- Crossroads has 300 volunteers.
- Services they provide will not subside post-COVID, and will continue to increase in cost. This challenge will be with us for some time.
- Homelessness encompasses many issues such as inter-generational poverty, lack of opportunity and education, mental health, drug misuse, and lack of adequate and affordable housing.
- Passage of SB 415-FN-A would allow Crossroads House to retain employees, and maintain their facilities.
- The cost of Crossroads per person per day is \$46. If they were to include all the other services they provide, it is actually closer to \$70.
- Senator Daniels inquired of Executive Director Arvelo why he believed their need would not subside. Executive Director Arvelo indicated the Seacoast has an inadequate supply of affordable housing, which will not be resolved anytime soon. The economy is going through a transition. We are unsure where COVID is going to take us. There is no permanent solution to homelessness currently. Senator Daniels wondered what percentage of Crossroads House occupants are unemployed. Executive Director Arvelo was unsure.

Stephanie Savard, Chief External Relations Officer, Families in Transition:

- Families in Transition provides a continuum of shelter, housing, and services to meet the needs of the state's most vulnerable population. In Manchester, there is an adult emergency shelter, the largest in the state, with 138 beds. Their family shelter serves 11 households in Manchester. There is also a specialty shelter in Manchester, serving 16 families.
- Families in Transition appreciates the financial support provided by the Bureau of Housing Supports, but these funds are not nearly sufficient to fully support the increased costs of operating these shelters.
- It costs Families in Transition \$30 per person per day to provide adult emergency shelter. It costs \$76 per family per day to operate. Both programs include essential needs and supportive services provided to assist individuals in meeting daily living essentials and to work toward long-term housing stability. The funding the Bureau of Housing Supports currently provides is only \$10 per adult per day, and \$25 per family per day. This amounts to approximately 1/3 of the true cost for emergency shelter beds and supportive services. There are ever increasing costs to operate their facilities, including utilities, food, maintenance, and particularly staffing. Any increase in support would go towards facility maintenance, case management, and their workforce.

Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Finance Committee Testify List for Bill ~~SB415~~ on 2022-01-25

~~Support: 43 Oppose: 0~~

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
✓ Watters, Senator David	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
✓ Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
✓ Cavanaugh, Senator Kevin	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
✓ Rosenwald, Cindy	An Elected Official	SD 13	Support
✓ Pleasanton, Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Kelley-Gillard, Nancy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Soucy, Senator	An Elected Official	SD 18	Support
✓ Polizos, Andrea	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Kahn, Cheryl	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Kayser, Marcia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Anderson, Louise	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Kalvaitis, Tracey	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Casino, Joanne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Cady, Rosamond	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Jameson, Laurie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Bryce, Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ WHITE, JOHN	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Blair, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Rhoades, Chuck	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Lucas, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Campbell, Karen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Dewey, Karen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Fraysse, Michael	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Richman, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Pedersen, Michael	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 32, Nashua Ward 5	Support
✓ Hurley, Paula	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Lord, Kit	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Burnap, Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Lord, Mark	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Hill, Bonnie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Erickson, Amy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Cote, Lois	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Lewis, Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Clancy, Michelle	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
✓ Coon, Kate	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Sherman, Senator	An Elected Official	SD24	Support
✓ Clark, Denise	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Stinson, Benjamin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Hayes, Randy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Straiton, Marie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Keeler, Margaret	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
✓ Maddocks, William	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Testimony



Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
State House, Room 103
107 North Main Street
Concord NH 03301

January 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of Families in Transition, we are here today to express support for SB 415 to make an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to emergency homeless shelters. Families in Transition provides a continuum of shelter, housing, and services to meet the needs of the state's most vulnerable population. Included in this continuum are three emergency and specialty shelters provided in Manchester for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The Adult Emergency Shelter is the largest in the state, providing 138 beds, and the Family Shelter serves 11 households. In addition, Families in Transition operates a specialty shelter for families with children to assist them in successfully transitioning to permanent housing.

Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Housing Supports, provides operational funding for these three programs. The funding provided is imperative to provide these individuals and families with meals and access to food pantry items, safe sleeping space, hygiene needs (laundry/showers), and case management to assist in addressing those barriers that led to homelessness and support transitioning to stable housing. While Families in Transition has appreciated the financial support provided by the Bureau, it should be noted that these funds are not nearly sufficient to fully support the increased costs of operating these emergency/specialty shelters.

In Manchester, it costs Families in Transition \$30 per person, per day, to provide adult emergency shelter and \$76 per family unit per day. Both programs include the array of essential needs and supportive services provided to assist in meeting their daily living essentials and to work toward long term housing stability. The funding that the Bureau of Housing Supports currently provides is only \$10 per adult/day and \$25 per family unit/day. This is only 1/3rd of the true cost for emergency shelter beds and supportive services. It is difficult to continue to meet the financial gap of this difference when there are increased costs to operate facilities, including utilities, food, maintenance, and particularly staffing.

Families in Transition requests that you support SB 415. Help us demonstrate that those without a home deserve the best quality shelter and services as a bridge to long-term housing stability. This additional appropriation can make it possible for organizations like Families in Transition to ensure these essential services are provided with best practices and the most efficient and effective way.



We look forward to working together to strengthen this safety net for those experiencing homelessness in our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact us at mdevlin@fitnh.org or ssavard@fitnh.org if needed.

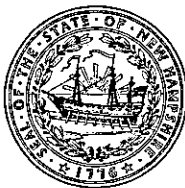
Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Devlin".

Maria Devlin
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Savard, LICSW".

Stephanie Savard, LICSW
Chief External Relations Officer



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Karen E. Hebert
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-9404 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9404
Fax: 603-271-4230 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

To: NH Senate Finance Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hebert".

From: Karen Hebert, Director
Division of Economic and Housings Stability

Re: SB415 Information

For consideration, the following is being provided by DHHS for informational purposes and in support of SB415. Pursuant to RSA 126-A:25 and 126-A:26, the Department maintains an emergency shelter program to assist in maintaining and making available additional emergency shelter facilities and other supportive and preventive services, and to assist in meeting the operating costs of such shelters and services, and which assists in providing safe and sanitary shelters on a short-term emergency or transitional basis for persons who are destitute, mentally ill, abandoned, or developmentally disabled, and other poor persons..

- The Department has provided a brief fiscal analysis for this proposed legislation to depict the funding necessary to achieve a \$20 homeless shelter payment rate. In the state's approved biennium budget FY2022-2023 the amount of \$2,911,641 was allocated for shelters. The shelter payment rate is based on this amount divided by the number of beds available statewide within the shelters contracted with the state. This number is reported in the 2021 Housing Inventory Chart submitted to the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency, updated annually.

For FY2022, the intent of SB415 is to increase the rate to \$20 (per person, per night), and seek retroactive contract amendments at this rate for each shelter currently contracted with the state. For FY2023, the intent is to maintain a rate of \$20 for existing contracts. It is anticipated that additional shelters will enter into contracts with the state at this rate during FY2023. Approximately 290 additional beds are anticipated in various regions of the state for new/additional contracts, bringing the total projected bed count to 1,255 in FY2023. The appropriation in the bill shall not exceed the requested amounts for each fiscal year.

- The regions covered by anticipated new contracts include the Manchester area, southern NH area, and the Counties of Sullivan, Belknap and Strafford. Some New Hampshire shelters' locations for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and human trafficking victims are undisclosed.

- The state's current contracted shelters have been experiencing a 97.9% occupancy rate statewide (December 2021, January 2022).
- The Governor's Council on Housing Stability was established in November 2020 by Governor Christopher T. Sununu, for the purposes of creating and implementing a plan to create housing stability for all citizens of the State of New Hampshire. Members of the Council are from a broad spectrum of representation and perspectives. www.nhchs.org . The passage of SB415 will enable meeting some of the Council's objectives:
 - Increase statewide adoption of harm reduction, trauma informed care, and other service modalities at every stage of engagement, including the expansion of low-barrier shelter capacity.
 - Increase shelter funding to promote best practice for shelter operations and for those that increase and improve transitions to permanent supportive housing.
 - Develop a workflow and operating policies to support homelessness prevention, shelter placement, and re-housing activities between local welfare, shelters, housing providers, and municipal and county leaders.
 - Expand funding and programming of evidence-based and evidence-informed services models that are designed to help people access and maintain housing as well as establish on-going community-based service connections from health, mental health, employment, and education.

Thank you for your consideration. Should any Member have questions regarding this information, I can be reached at

603-223-4812 (o),
603-573-6311 (c),
Karen.e.hebert@dhhs.nh.gov

DHHS Division of Economic and Housing Stability
 SB415 Budget Analysis and Request
 Shelter Payment Rates

To achieve \$20.00 rate pp/pn on existing contracts

FY2022	
Budgeted	\$ 2,911,641
Beds	965
Nights	365
Current Rate	\$ 8.27

Requesting	\$ 4,131,599
Beds	965
Nights	365
Added Rate	\$ 11.73
Final Rate for FY	\$ 20.00

To achieve \$20.00 rate pp/pn for projected contracts

FY2023	
Beds	1255
Nights	365
Rate	\$ 20.00
Total Need	\$ 9,161,500
Less Amount Budgeted	\$ 2,911,641
Requesting	\$ 6,249,859

The amount budgeted was approved in the state's biennium budget FY2022-2023 and allocated for shelters. The number of beds is statewide, based on the 2021 Housing Inventory Chart submitted to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency. This is updated annually. For FY2022, the intent of the bill is to increase the rate to \$20 (per person, per night), and seek retroactive contract amendments at this rate for each shelter currently contracted with the state. For FY2023, the intent of the bill is to maintain a rate of \$20 for existing contracts. It is anticipated that additional shelters will enter into contracts with the state at this rate. Approximately 290 additional beds are anticipated for new/additional contracts, bringing the total bed count to 1,255 in FY2023. The appropriation in the bill shall not exceed the requested amounts for each fiscal year.

KAREN HEBERT - DHHS -

Economic/Housing

Supports

01/25/22

VendorName	SYF18	SYF19	SYF20	SYF21	Comments
211 United Ways of NH	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	Not a shelter program
Belknap-Merrimack CAP	\$199,782.00	\$199,782.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Not a shelter program
Bridge House	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$83,524.00	\$64,240.00	
Waypoint	\$151,769.00	\$151,769.00	\$157,355.00	\$93,148.00	
Concord Coalition to End Homelessness	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$12,760.00	\$58,618.00	Not funded as a shelter program
Cross Roads House	\$178,595.00	\$178,595.00	\$409,453.00	\$327,624.00	
Families in Transition	\$301,392.00	\$301,392.00	\$905,696.00	\$674,520.00	
Family Promise of Greater Nashua, Inc/Anne-Marie	\$22,428.00	\$22,428.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Friends Program, Inc	\$208,727.00	\$208,727.00	\$82,885.00	\$93,148.00	
Harbor Homes	\$109,802.00	\$109,802.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Harbor Homes	\$39,050.00	\$39,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Headrest, Inc.	\$50,879.00	\$50,879.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Helping Hands Outreach Center	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$112,970.00	\$102,784.00	
Lakes Region Community Developers	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00	\$37,389.00	\$61,028.00	
Marguerite's Place	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$109,065.00	\$73,876.00	
Merrimack Valley Assistance Program	\$50,850.00	\$50,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
My Friend's Place	\$95,912.00	\$95,912.00	\$99,836.00	\$67,452.00	
Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc.	\$115,599.00	\$115,599.00	\$158,213.00	\$96,360.00	
New Generation, Inc.	\$55,350.00	\$55,350.00	\$92,961.00	\$70,664.00	
New Hampshire Legal Assistance	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	Not a shelter program
New Horizons for NH, Inc	\$203,086.00	\$203,086.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	\$277,373.00	\$277,373.00	\$302,764.00	\$414,348.00	
Southern NH Services, Inc.	\$78,894.00	\$78,894.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Southwestern Community Services	\$305,902.00	\$305,902.00	\$283,162.00	\$244,112.00	
Strafford County CAC	\$35,975.00	\$35,975.00	\$4,983.00	\$0.00	
The Front Door Agency, Inc.	\$82,500.00	\$82,500.00	\$129,822.00	\$141,328.00	
The Salvation Army - Concord McKenna	\$101,191.00	\$101,191.00	\$162,833.00	\$134,904.00	
The Salvation Army - Laconia Carey	\$64,083.00	\$64,083.00	\$73,425.00	\$128,480.00	
The Way Home	\$187,330.00	\$187,330.00	\$153,439.00	\$61,028.00	
Tri-County CAP	\$163,154.00	\$163,154.00	\$74,140.00	\$41,756.00	
Hundred Nights			\$110,726.00	\$112,420.00	
Seacoast Family Promise			\$48,532.00	\$41,391.00	
Total	\$3,492,123.00	\$3,492,123.00	\$3,755,933.00	\$3,253,229.00	

Funding for 2-1-1; Merrimack/Belknap CAP Programs Included

This Biennium

Shelter name	Bed count per HIC	Total annual beds	Annual funding available SFY 22 & 23	Monthly available
Salvation Army, Carey House	40	14600	\$ 118,260	\$ 9,855.00
New Beginnings (DV)	16	5840	\$ 47,304	\$ 3,942.00
Tyler Blain House	13	4745	\$ 38,435	\$ 3,202.88
RESPONSE (DV)	8	2920	\$ 23,652	\$ 1,971.00
Starting Point (DV)	10	3650	\$ 29,565	\$ 2,463.75
Hundred Nights	35	12775	\$ 103,478	\$ 8,623.13
SCS Cheshire County	34	12410	\$ 100,521	\$ 8,376.75
Monadnock (DV)	11	4015	\$ 32,522	\$ 2,710.13
Bridge House	20	7300	\$ 59,130	\$ 4,927.50
Voices Against Violence (DV)	12	4380	\$ 35,478	\$ 2,956.50
Burch House (DV)	15	5475	\$ 44,348	\$ 3,695.63
WISE (DV)	7	2555	\$ 20,696	\$ 1,724.63
FIT - New Horizons	112	40880	\$ 331,128	\$ 27,594.00
FIT - Lowell St	24	8760	\$ 70,956	\$ 5,913.00
FIT - Manchester Emergency	20	7300	\$ 59,130	\$ 4,927.50
Helping Hands	32	11680	\$ 94,608	\$ 7,884.00
Waypoint	29	10585	\$ 85,739	\$ 7,144.88
NSKS	30	10950	\$ 88,695	\$ 7,391.25
Bridges (DV)	12	4380	\$ 35,478	\$ 2,956.50
Salvation Army, McKenna	42	15330	\$ 124,173	\$ 10,347.75
Friends Emergency	29	10585	\$ 85,739	\$ 7,144.88
Crisis Center (DV)	21	7665	\$ 62,087	\$ 5,173.88
Cross Roads House	102	37230	\$ 301,563	\$ 25,130.25
New Generations	22	8030	\$ 65,043	\$ 5,420.25
Seacoast Family Promise	14	5110	\$ 41,391	\$ 3,449.25
Haven (DV)	12	4380	\$ 35,478	\$ 2,956.50
My Friend's Place	21	7665	\$ 62,087	\$ 5,173.88
SCS Sullivan County	42	15330	\$ 124,173	\$ 10,347.75
Turning Point (DV)	21	7665	\$ 62,087	\$ 5,173.88
Lakes Region Comm Dev	19	6935	\$ 56,174	\$ 4,681.13
FIT - Family Willows	31	11315	\$ 91,652	\$ 7,637.63
The Way Home	19	6935	\$ 56,174	\$ 4,681.13
Marguerite's Place	23	8395	\$ 68,000	\$ 5,666.63
Front Door Agency	44	16060	\$ 130,086	\$ 10,840.50
FIT - Market St.	23	8395	\$ 68,000	\$ 5,666.63
Concord Coalition			\$ 58,618	
Totals	965	352225	\$ 2,911,641	

Debra Martone

From: Dan and Nancy <ndgillard@ne.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Debra Martone
Cc: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Support SB 415

Dear Ms. Martone:

I fully support the NH Senate Finance Committee SB 415 with an appropriation to the department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of increasing rates to,homeless shelters to \$20 per bed night for the fiscal year 2022.

Keene which offers shelters for those experiencing homelessness in our city and surrounding towns has experienced an increase in the number of individuals and families seeking shelter for a variety of reasons: lack of affordable housing, evictions, low wages, unemployment, mental illness or substance use disorders. According to Mindy Cambiar, executive director of Hundred Nights Shelter, they spend close to \$40 per bed-night to shelter an individual. Covid health requirements have added an additional expense to providing a safe sleeping environment for guests at the shelters. These nonprofit budgets are stretched thin while trying to adequately address this ongoing community need.

I believe if we as a community and state support our most vulnerable, we all benefit.

I encourage the committee to support SB 415.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelley-Gillard
72 Reservoir St.
Keene, NH

Debra Martone

From: Jay Kahn
Sent: Saturday, January 29, 2022 3:02 PM
To: Gary Daniels
Cc: John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Updates on SB 387, 402 and 415

Dear Chairman Daniels,

I appreciated the opportunity for testimony on 3 bills before the Senate Finance Committee this past Tuesday. It allowed for presentation of information gathered and demonstrated where additional information is needed for your consideration. Here's an update on each bill:

SB 387 - Body Dash Camera Fund -

The funding level needs more justification. To that end, the Department of Safety is working with the Police Chiefs Association to summarize the terms and costs from a variety of departments. Our objective is to have that information for the Committee before your Feb. 8th meeting. There will also be a response to questions about a single procurement process.

SB 302 - Disaster relief matching fund

We have a chicken and egg problem. We can't determine a total accepted FEMA claims figure until a final determination is made. On the other hand, towns know what they've claimed. If towns knew the sources of funds, including if the state would provide half of the local match, they could proceed with work as quickly as possible, using loan provisions. Director Harper and I will consult with LBA on how to word a contingency motion, that based upon amounts authorized by FEMA, the state will reimburse towns 12.5% of authorized amounts. For an illustration, if the total disaster relief authorized by FEMA was \$50 million, the state would be responsible for up to \$6.25M, only if and when towns covered another \$6.25M.

~~SB 415~~ Homeless Shelter reimbursements

Based on the testimony provided, Health and Human Services is refining it's reimbursement goal and a means for calculating an amount needed to fund it.

We're aiming to provide the updates prior to your meeting on Feb. 8th. Let me know if this creates any problem. Thank you for allowing us time to answer items addressed at the hearings.

Jay

Jay Kahn
State Senator
Senate-District 10
Keene, NH
503-381-2930 (c)

Voting Sheets

Senate Finance Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill # SB 415-FV-A

Hearing date: 01/25/22

Executive session date: 03/15/22

Motion of: ITL

VOTE: 4-3
Giuda
D'Allesandro
Rosenwald

<u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>
Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>
Hennessey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ VOTE: _____

<u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>
Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>
Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Reported out by</u>
Senator Daniels, Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Reagan, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Giuda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Hennessey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senator Rosenwald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Morse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator D'Allesandro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Amendments: _____

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Finance

to which was referred **SB 415-FN-A**

AN ACT

making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

BY A VOTE OF: 4-3

Senator Erin Hennessey
For the Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

Docket of SB415

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of increasing rates paid to homeless shelters.

Official Docket of SB415.:

Date	Body	Description
12/23/2021	S	To Be Introduced 01/05/2022 and Referred to Finance; SJ 1
12/29/2021	S	Hearing: 01/25/2022, Room 103, SH, 01:20 pm; SC 1
3/16/2022	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 03/24/2022; SC 12
3/24/2022	S	Special Order to Next Session, Without Objection, MA; 03/24/2022; SJ 6
3/24/2022	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 03/31/2022; SC 13
3/31/2022	S	Sen. Bradley Moved Laid on Table, RC 13Y-11N , MA; 03/31/2022; SJ 7
3/31/2022	S	Pending Motion Inexpedient to Legislate; 03/31/2022; SJ 7

 NH House

 NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 415-FN-A

Senate Committee: FINANCE

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

___ - amendment # _____ ___ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

___ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

___ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

___ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

___ as amended by the senate ___ as amended by the house

___ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Rebra A. Martone
Committee Aide

06/24/22
Date

Senate Clerk's Office AK