



1 (B) An institution that provides temporary residence  
2 for individuals intended to be institutionalized;  
3 or

4 (C) A public or private place not designed for or  
5 ordinarily used as sleeping accommodations for  
6 human beings.

7 This term does not include any individual imprisoned or  
8 otherwise detained under an act of Congress or a state law.

9 "Life-sustaining activities" includes but is not limited to  
10 eating, sleeping, standing, sitting, and using and moving freely  
11 in a public space.

12 § -2 **Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to  
13 ameliorate adverse effects visited upon individuals when those  
14 individuals lack a home.

15 § -3 **Houseless bill of rights; findings.** The  
16 legislature finds that no person's rights, privileges, or access  
17 to public services may be denied solely because a person is  
18 houseless, and a houseless individual shall be granted the same  
19 rights as any other person.

20 § -4 **Bill of rights.** (a) The houseless bill of rights  
21 includes the following guarantees to houseless individuals:



- 1           (1) The right to engage in life-sustaining activities,  
2                   including the right to use and move freely in public  
3                   spaces, including but not limited to public sidewalks,  
4                   public parks, public transportation, and public  
5                   buildings, in the same manner as any other person  
6                   without discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 7           (2) The right to equal treatment by all state and county  
8                   agencies without discrimination on the basis of  
9                   housing status;
- 10          (3) The right to access fair housing and equal employment  
11                   opportunity without discrimination due to the lack of  
12                   a permanent mailing address or the fact that the  
13                   individual's mailing address is the mailing address of  
14                   a shelter or social service provider;
- 15          (4) The right to emergency medical care free from  
16                   discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 17          (5) The right to vote, register to vote, and receive  
18                   documentation necessary to prove identity for voting  
19                   without discrimination on the basis of housing status;
- 20          (6) The right to protection from disclosure of records and  
21                   information, without proper legal authority, and the



1 right to confidentiality of records and information in  
2 accordance with the Federal Homeless Management  
3 Information System, the Patient Protection and  
4 Affordable Care Act, and the Federal Violence Against  
5 Women Act;

6 (7) The right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in  
7 personal property, including but not limited to  
8 identification, food, water, medication, and all  
9 objects necessary for life-sustaining activities, such  
10 as clothing, blankets, pillows, and backpacks, to the  
11 same extent as personal property in a permanent  
12 residence;

13 (8) The right to access temporary and permanent shelters  
14 without discrimination on the basis of any protected  
15 class;

16 (9) The right to sleep in a legally parked automobile;  
17 provided that the automobile is properly registered,  
18 licensed, safety inspected, and insured;

19 (10) The equal opportunity to have twenty-four-hour access  
20 to public hygiene facilities and live in decent, safe,  
21 sanitary, and healthful accommodations anywhere within



1 the State, regardless of housing status, but not  
 2 including access to environmentally sensitive areas;  
 3 and

4 (11) Action by the State, a county, or private organization  
 5 shall not impede an individual's ability to maintain  
 6 access to services essential to survival, including  
 7 but not limited to medical services, shelter, food,  
 8 and water.

9 (b) The rights afforded to houseless persons to ensure  
 10 that their person, privacy, and property are safeguarded and  
 11 protected as set forth in this chapter are available only  
 12 insofar as they are implemented in accordance with other state  
 13 or county laws, state rules and regulations, federal law, and  
 14 the constitutions of the State and the United States."

15 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

16

INTRODUCED BY: Will Evers  
Breene Hunt



**Report Title:**

Houseless Bill of Rights

**Description:**

Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.

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