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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 407  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Gross and A. Miller

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### SUMMARY

- Establishes the Safe Shelter Initiative Program, for veterans, within the Department of Veterans Services.
- Specifies that the Director of Veterans Services must supervise the program, and must adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the program.
- Authorizes the Governor to order any state agency to work with the Director for purposes of the program, and authorizes the Governor to request that county veterans service commissions work with the Director for purposes of the program.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Safe Shelter Initiative Program

The bill creates the Safe Shelter Initiative Program and states that its purpose is to ensure that no veteran in Ohio will be involuntarily homeless. For purposes of the bill, “veteran” is defined as:

any person who has completed service in the armed forces, including the national guard of any state, or a reserve component of the armed forces, who has been discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5902.25(A) and (B); R.C. 5903.01, not in the bill. “Armed forces” means the armed forces of the United States, including the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or any reserve components of those forces; the national guard of any state; the commissioned corps of the United States public health service; the merchant marine service during wartime; such other service as may be designated by

The bill specifies the program is within the Department of Veterans Services and under the supervision of the Director of Veterans Services.<sup>2</sup> The bill requires the Director to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act,<sup>3</sup> and that the rules must establish a program that does all of the following:

1. Wherever possible, integrates veterans who need housing into housing and shelter programs that are in operation in Ohio;
2. Includes a method to provide vouchers to state and local entities that provide housing services to veterans;
3. Participates and coordinates with various state and local agencies to ensure that no Ohio veteran is involuntarily homeless, including the Development Services Agency, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, county veterans service commissions, and other such agencies designated by the Director or the Governor;
4. Includes a method to allocate funding from the Veterans Safe Shelter Initiative Program Fund to provide nightly vouchers, funding for shelters, monthly apartment rentals, and such other means as the Director determines necessary for purposes of the program.<sup>4</sup>

## **Fund**

The bill creates the Veterans Safe Shelter Initiative Program Fund in the state treasury and specifies that the fund will consist of money appropriated to it by the General Assembly. Under the bill, the Director of Veterans Services must administer the fund for purposes of the program.<sup>5</sup>

## **State agencies and county veteran service commissions**

The bill authorizes the Governor to order any state agency to work with the Director for purposes of the program. And the bill specifically requires that the Development Services Agency, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or any other applicable agency participate in the program if asked by the Director of Veterans Services to do so. Under the bill, the Governor also may request that county veterans service commissions work with the Director for purposes of the program.<sup>6</sup>

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Congress; or the Ohio organized militia when engaged in full-time national guard duty for a period of more than 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5902.25(B).

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 119 of the Revised Code.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 5902.02(GG) and 5902.25(C).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 5902.25(D).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 5902.25(E) and (F).

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-02-21

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