

## CHAPTER 702

(House Bill 1172)

AN ACT concerning

## Homelessness - Uniform Reports

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to adopt certain regulations governing the implementation and evaluation of certain programs and services for homeless individuals; requiring that the regulations include uniform reporting requirements; and generally relating to regional data on homelessness.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 88A - Social Services Administration  
Section 132  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1985 Replacement Volume and 1986 Supplement)

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Article 88A - Social Services Administration  
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## Preamble

WHEREAS, There are more homeless people in Maryland and throughout the United States than at any time since the depression of the 1930's. The homeless population is now more diverse and includes individuals and families who are without shelter for a variety of reasons. Shelter providers report increasing numbers of the "new poor"; and

WHEREAS, A study of homelessness in Maryland noted that in Maryland, where the homeless population closely resembles that of other states, racial minorities are disproportionately represented, and 48 percent of the homeless seeking services are in this group though they comprise only 23 percent of the State's population; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of the homeless population served in FY85 reported problems with alcohol or drug abuse, and one-fourth of the total reported mental illness--sizable percentages, but not the majority, as many people believe, and families represent 28 percent of the homeless served and people 30 years old and under represent 58 percent the largest subgroup; and