

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 457

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

HOMELESS: Establishes minimum housing standards for individuals experiencing homelessness

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part IV of Chapter 3 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 40:581, relative to housing standards for organizations providing  
4 services to individuals experiencing homelessness; to provide for duties of the  
5 Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the duties of the office of the fire  
6 marshal; to provide for the promulgation of rules; and provides for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part IV of Chapter 3 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
9 comprised of R.S. 40:581, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART IV. SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

11 §581. Housing and services for individuals experiencing homelessness

12 A.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health, in consultation with the office of  
13 state fire marshal, shall promulgate rules to establish minimum housing standards for  
14 emergency shelters, community facilities, group homes, and halfway houses.

15 (2) The minimum housing standards shall consider critical aspects such as  
16 safety, sanitation, privacy, and habitability.

17 (3) A rule promulgated in accordance with this Section shall not conflict  
18 with federal law requirements for an entity described in Paragraph (1) of this  
19 Subsection.

1           B. The state fire marshal shall assist in the implementation of the provisions  
2           of this Section by conducting annual inspections of emergency shelters, community  
3           facilities, group homes, and halfway houses to verify that the housing options  
4           available to individuals experiencing homelessness are safe and sanitary.

5           C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall submit waivers from the  
6           Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to obtain funding to provide healthcare  
7           and housing services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 457 Original

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Knox

**Abstract:** Establishes minimum housing standards and inspection requirements for facilities serving individuals experiencing homelessness.

Proposed law authorizes the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), in consultation with the state fire marshal, to establish minimum housing standards for emergency shelters, community facilities, group homes, and halfway houses.

Proposed law requires that minimum housing standards address safety, sanitation, privacy, and habitability.

Proposed law provides that no administrative rule created shall conflict with requirements on facilities imposed by federal law.

Proposed law directs the state fire marshal to conduct annual inspections of applicable housing facilities to ensure they are safe and sanitary.

Proposed law requires LDH to seek federal waivers to obtain funding for healthcare and housing services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

(Adds R.S. 40:581)