A bill to establish a bill of rights for the homeless; and to provide a remedy for violation of those rights.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "bill of rights for the homeless act".

Sec. 2. It is the long-standing policy of this state that an individual should not suffer unnecessarily from cold or hunger, be deprived of shelter or the basic rights incident to shelter, or be subject to unfair discrimination based on the individual's homeless status. Many individuals are homeless as a result of economic hardship, a severe shortage of safe and affordable housing, and a
shrinking social safety net. In particular, youths aged 13 to 15
and young adults aged 16 to 23 often suffer from deprivation
because they are homeless or perceived as being homeless. It is the
intent of this act to lessen the adverse effects and conditions
caused by the lack of a residence or a home.

Sec. 3. (1) An individual's rights, privileges, or access to
public services must not be denied or abridged solely because the
individual is homeless or perceived as being homeless. An
individual who is homeless shall be granted the same rights and
privileges as any other citizen of this state. An individual
experiencing homelessness has all of the following rights:

(a) The right to use and move freely in public spaces,
including, but not limited to, public sidewalks, public parks,
public transportation, and public buildings, in the same manner as
any other individual and without discrimination on the basis of the
individual's housing status.

(b) The right to equal treatment by all state and municipal
agencies, without discrimination on the basis of housing status.

(c) The right to freedom from discrimination in employment
because of the lack of a permanent mailing address or having a
mailing address that is a shelter or social service provider.

(d) The right to emergency medical care free from
discrimination based on housing status.

(e) If the individual is a United States citizen, the right to
vote, register to vote, and receive documentation necessary to
prove identity for voting without discrimination due to housing
status.

(f) The right to protection from disclosure to state,
municipal, or private entities without appropriate legal authority
of the individual's records or information that was provided to a
homeless shelter or service provider; and the right to
confidentiality of personal records and information in accordance
with all limitations on disclosure established by requirements
under a federal homeless management information system, the health
insurance portability and accountability act of 1996, Public Law
104-191, or the violence against women act of 1994, Public Law 103-
322.

(g) The right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in the
individual's personal property to the same extent as personal
property in a permanent residence.

(h) The right, if a homeless youth, to be enrolled in school
without delay or discrimination because of housing status.

(2) As used in this section, "housing status" means the status
of having or not having a fixed or regular residence, including the
status of living on the streets, in a shelter, or in a temporary
residence.

Sec. 4. In a civil action alleging a violation of this act,
the court may award appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief,
actual damages, and reasonable attorney fees and costs to a
prevailing plaintiff.

Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
date it is enacted into law.