

CITY OF WAUSAU, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403

RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Supporting passage by the State Senate of eight bills dealing with homelessness issues

Committee Action: Approved 4-0

Fiscal Impact: None

File Number: 19-1111

Date Introduced: November 26, 2019

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

COSTS	<i>Budget Neutral</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>Included in Budget:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Budget Source:</i>
	<i>One-time Costs:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Recurring Costs:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
SOURCE	<i>Fee Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Grant Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>Debt Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount</i> <i>Annual Retirement</i>
	<i>TID Financed:</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amount:</i>
	<i>TID Source: Increment Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Debt <input type="checkbox"/> Funds on Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Interfund Loan <input type="checkbox"/></i>		

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Wausau joins the Wisconsin Coalition Against Homelessness in asking all members of the Wisconsin state Senate to express support to Senate leadership to bring to a vote at the earliest opportunity the package of eight bills dealing with various aspects of homelessness across our state which include

AB119/SB122 relating to grants to homeless shelters, modifying administrative rules promulgated by the Department of Administration, and making an appropriation.

AB120/SB145 relating to homelessness case management services and making an appropriation.

AB121/SB120 relating to housing navigator grants and making an appropriation.

AB122/SB124 relating to employment and training activities for homeless populations, the Council on Workforce Investment, and local workforce development boards.

AB123/SB119 relating to housing grants to homeless individuals and families and making an appropriation.

AB124/SB144 relating to grants to defray housing costs and for diversion programming and making an appropriation.

AB125/SB121 relating to housing quality standards loans, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

AB144/SB123 relating to skills enhancement grants and making an appropriation; and

WHEREAS, these bills were developed by Republican leadership as a result of efforts that began in 2017 in the administration of Governor Scott Walker. They came out of the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness first chaired by former Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. Governor Tony Evers now chairs the council and the package of legislation is called "A Hand and A Home: Foundations for Success." They take a "housing first" approach to making long-term progress. All of the bills passed in the state Assembly in June; and

WHEREAS, the package would:

- Provide short-term grants or loans to defray housing costs
- Help struggling people find housing
- Create more beds at emergency shelters
- Pay for skills training to escape homelessness
- Assist landlords with repairs to low-cost housing
- Expand grants for housing and related services
- Change a current bureaucratic rule that complicates nurses helping in shelters; and

WHEREAS, funding for the measures in the bills, part of which is to assist emergency shelters, is not an issue because Joint Finance has set aside \$7.5 million for the tasks at hand; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) says he is confident that a majority of both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate support the package; and

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has said he would sign the bills if they are passed; and

WHEREAS, we ask that the bills be released from committee and put to a vote as quickly as possible so they can be passed and start to help the homeless and the charitable organizations assisting the homeless.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Wausau urges the state Senate to bring to a vote at the earliest opportunity the package of eight bills dealing with various aspects of homelessness across our state, and hereby directs the clerk to send copies of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers and other State officials.

Approved:



Robert B. Mielke, Mayor