

definition of homelessness. That is spelled out, if you will, on the first page of the committee amendments. It adopts it from the federal act. Section 3 of the bill changes the administration of the program. As it was originally introduced, it fell under the Department of Social Services. The provision with the committee amendments would fall under the Department of Economic Development. The issue there is one of matching federal grant dollars, and it is more compatible in the Department of Economic Development field. The Section 4 is a definitional section. Section 5 deals with the eligibility requirements for shelters that would be applying for the grants. They would have the requirement that they must be nonprofit, that they must provide 24-hour residential care, must be nondiscriminatory, and they must operate in a drug-free environment. Section 6 of the bill would raise the documentary tax stamp from a dollar fifty to a dollar seventy-five. That 25 cent increase would be distributed basically in the way that it is distributed now, but it would approximate 30 percent to the County General Fund, 55 percent to the State General Fund, and then 15 percent to the State Treasurer to be placed in the Shelter Assistance Trust Fund. Section 7 of the bill would require that any shelter, which in order to be eligible and apply for funds under the Assistance Trust Fund would have to conduct an external audit. This is an extremely important provision in the bill that would require scrutiny of not only the funds that would be allowed for under the trust fund, but also use of funds in order to be eligible for the trust fund. The subsequent, and I think Section 7 is the....Section 8 allows for the department to promulgate rules and regulations, and Section 9 is the provision. I misspoke when I said it was Section 6 that dealt with the increase in the documentary tax stamp. That would be in Section 9 of the committee amendments. It was Section 6 of the original bill. With that, as I stated, the Standing Committee amendments become the bill. I would urge adoption of the committee amendments. They were done in conjunction with Senator Lindsay's office, the appropriate state agencies, and the proponents of the measure. The hearing on the bill was without any opposition on the part of either the state agency that would be regulating it or any individuals who would be affected by the increase in the tax stamp. With that, Mr. President, I would move for adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Mr. Clerk, I believe you have an amendment to the committee amendments.