SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3133

(SENATE AUTHORS: FATEH)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/01/2025		Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Health and Human Services

A bill for an act

relating to human services; establishing a bill of rights for people utilizing shelter; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256K.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[256K.55] BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE UTILIZING SHELTER.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Homeless" or "homelessness" means lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate residence.

(c) "Homeless shelter" or "shelter" means any building, regardless of nature of ownership or operation or source of funding, intended for temporary indoor sleeping accommodations for persons who are homeless, including single adults, families, youth, or survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. Homeless shelter or shelter does not include a shelter located on Tribal land or owned, operated, or administered by a Tribe.

(d) "People utilizing shelter" or "people" means persons utilizing a homeless shelter in Minnesota.

(e) "Service animal" has the meaning given in section 504B.113, paragraph (b).

(f) "Support animal" has the meaning given in section 504B.113, paragraph (c).

Subd. 2. **Right to be treated with dignity and respect.** (a) People utilizing shelter have the right to be treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect for their humanity, individuality, identity, and property by staff, volunteers, contractors, and agents of a shelter. People have the right to be treated equally and without discrimination because of their race, color,

ethnicity, national origin, religion, creed, citizenship status, age, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, employment status, source of income, personal appearance, status as a military veteran, marital status, familial status, medical history, need for a service animal or a support animal, limited English proficiency, or lack of a valid state driver's license, nondriver ID, or other form of government-issued identification.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits denial of shelter to:

(1) a single adult by a shelter serving families only;

(2) a family by a shelter serving single adults only;

(3) an ineligible person by a shelter serving youths only; or

(4) an ineligible person by a shelter serving survivors of domestic violence only.

Subd. 3. **Right to adequate facilities.** People utilizing shelter have the right to be sheltered in facilities that are safe, clean, sanitary, and adequate to meet their temporary housing needs, including but not limited to sufficient and accessible restroom and shower facilities, sufficient space for wheelchairs and walkers, sufficient place for storage of personal items, and bedding and basic hygiene necessities. If a shelter serves food, people utilizing shelter have the right to food prepared in a safe and sanitary manner in accordance with all applicable health codes.

Subd. 4. **Right to reasonable accommodations.** (a) People with disabilities utilizing shelter have the right to reasonable accommodations and modifications of policies, practices, and procedures, including the rights and remedies granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. People have the right to have a service animal or a support animal in a shelter and space to accommodate them.

(b) People have the right to reasonable modification of rules and policies to accommodate work or child care hours and schedules, emergencies, obligations to care for relatives who do not reside in the shelter, and other extenuating circumstances that would result in the need to leave or return at times other than those articulated in the shelter rules to ensure no person utilizing shelter is unreasonably denied entry to the shelter facility.

(c) Shelters must take reasonable measures to:

(1) ensure that people with limited English proficiency understand the shelter rules and policies and can communicate with staff; and

(2) accommodate people with special dietary needs or religious restrictions.

Subd. 5. **Right to privacy.** People utilizing shelter have the right to personal privacy, at a minimum, when:

(1) changing clothes;

(2) using toilets, showers, and baths; and

(3) during medical examination or treatment.

Subd. 6. **Right to confidentiality of records.** People utilizing shelter have the right to have their personal, financial, health, and medical records kept private and secured. Except as otherwise required or allowed under law, a shelter may not release records of a person utilizing shelter without the person's consent.

Subd. 7. **Right to know about shelter rules and available resources.** Upon admission to a shelter, or as soon as practicable thereafter, every person utilizing shelter must be offered a notice in writing or provided in a method that is accessible to the person that include:

(1) the rules of the shelter, including any potential exclusions or exceptions, and a staff person to whom questions or concerns can be directed;

(2) a list of the rights enumerated in this section and, if requested, a full copy of this section;

(3) the shelter's procedures for requesting accommodations under subdivision 4;

(4) the shelter's grievance procedure, which also must be filed with the office of economic opportunity of the Department of Human Services; and

(5) a list of, and contact information for, public and private resources, including organizations providing:

(i) mental, physical, and chemical health care;

(ii) case management, housing, or employment services; and

(iii) assistance accessing public benefits.

Subd. 8. **Right to meet with attorneys, advocates, and others.** People utilizing shelter have the right to meet and communicate privately with attorneys, advocates, clergy, physicians, medical providers, social workers, and other professionals. The meetings must be allowed at reasonable hours, and immediately in an emergency, consistent with any physical limitations of the shelter facility.

Subd. 9. **Right to complain.** People utilizing shelter have the right to file grievances with the shelter provider or any relevant government entity regarding treatment of a person

or the services provided by the shelter. A person may file a confidential grievance either verbally or in writing. Shelters must establish a confidential grievance procedure that includes identification of to whom a confidential complaint can be made. Shelters may not retaliate in any way against the person filing the grievance.

Subd. 10. **Ending shelter stay or services.** (a) A shelter manager or staff may end the stay of a person utilizing shelter if the shelter determines that the person poses a danger to shelter staff or other inhabitants based on a credible report that the person committed an act that would constitute criminal sexual conduct under sections 609.342 to 609.3451, inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm upon another, or used or threatened to use a dangerous weapon as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 6. In all other cases, ending a person's stay in shelter can occur only in the most severe circumstances.

(b) Shelters must exercise judgment before ending a person's stay in shelter. Before ending the person's stay, the shelter must:

(1) give the person the right to explain or refute the allegations that form the basis for ending the person's stay;

(2) examine all extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to:

(i) the person's age and any known or apparent mental health conditions; and

(ii) whether ending the person's stay in shelter in dangerous weather conditions will jeopardize the life, health, or safety of the person;

(3) have the situation reviewed by a minimum of three shelter staff; and

(4) provide opportunity for mediation or conflict resolution.

(c) A person whose shelter stay has involuntarily been ended has the right to be provided with written documentation of the reason that the stay was ended; the date that the stay ends; and the procedure to file a grievance or, if applicable, appeal.

Subd. 11. **No effect on other rights.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate, limit, or modify any rights of people utilizing shelter, including rights of notice or appeal, granted under any other provision of law.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2026, except subdivision 7, clause (5), is effective January 1, 2026.

Sec. 2. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE UTILIZING SHELTER.**

No later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner of human services, in consultation with relevant state and local agencies, including the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness and nonprofit organizations serving or advocating for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, must develop a list of resources required to be distributed under Minnesota Statutes, section 256K.55, subdivision 7, clause (5).

Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE UTILIZING SHELTER.**

$..... in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to develop the list of resources required to be distributed under Minnesota Statutes, section 256K.55, subdivision 7, clause (5). This is a onetime appropriation.