

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend The Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 to authorize the Director of the Department of Human Services (“DHS”) to exercise emergency powers regarding Continuum of Care services for the duration of a public emergency declared by the Mayor pursuant to the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Department of Human Services Emergency Powers Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) On March 11, 2020, the Mayor of the District of Columbia issued Mayor’s Orders 2020-045 and 2020-046, declaring a public emergency and a public health emergency in the District due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents posed by the spread of COVID-19. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, subsequent Orders have been issued extending the declaration of a public emergency.

(b) In order to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within congregate settings, the Department of Human Services used its authority under the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021, effective June 24, 2021 (D.C. Law 24-9; D.C. Official Code § 31-104.01) to quickly transfer shelter residents who exhibit symptoms of, or test positive for COVID-19, thereby limiting exposure for other residents.

34 (c) Though there is still a declared public emergency, the authority provided to the
35 Department of Human Services, under Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021
36 expires on February 4, 2022.

37 (d) As evidenced by the extremely transmissible Omicron variant, there continues to be a
38 need for the ability to protect some of the District's most vulnerable residents from exposure in
39 congregate settings operated by the Department of Human Services.

40 (e) Thus, it is important that the Department's emergency authority be extended to
41 coincide with the public emergency declared by the Mayor.

42 Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute
43 emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Department of Human Services
44 Emergency Powers Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

45 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.