



Brianna Hill &lt;bhill@spotlightdelaware.org&gt;

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**Fwd: Fw: HB 135**

1 message

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**To:** bhill@spotlightdelaware.org

Tue, Apr 21, 2026 at 9:32 PM

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**From:** Phillips, Sophie (LegHall) <sophie.phillips@delaware.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 1:24 PM  
**To:** Kane, John (Governor) <john.kane@delaware.gov>  
**Cc:** Haynes, JL (Governor) <JL.Haynes@delaware.gov>; Johnson, Kendra (LegHall) <Kendra.Johnson@delaware.gov>; Brock, Nicholas (LegHall) <Nicholas.Brock@delaware.gov>; MinorBrown, Melissa C (LegHall) <Melissa.MinorBrown@delaware.gov>; Patterson, Jon (LegHall) <Jon.Patterson@delaware.gov>; Del Collo, Caitlin (DSHA) <Caitlin.DelCollo@delaware.gov>; Denison, Douglas (DNREC) <Douglas.Denison@delaware.gov>; Harris-aikens, Donna (K12) <donna.harris-aikens@doe.k12.de.us>; String, Aimee (DelDOT) <Aimee.String@delaware.gov>; Berryhill, James (DHSS) <James.Berryhill@delaware.gov>; Chandler, Kimberly (DSHS) <Kimberly.Chandler@delaware.gov>; Brewington-Carr, Sherese (DHR) <Sherese.Brewington-C@delaware.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: HB 135

Hi All,

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you after this passes out of committee tomorrow. Attached is a running amendment we have been working on. You can see that a number of these concerns have already been addressed.

Thank you,  
Rep. Phillips

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**From:** Kane, John (Governor) <john.kane@delaware.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 11:09 AM  
**To:** Phillips, Sophie (LegHall) <sophie.phillips@delaware.gov>  
**Cc:** Haynes, JL (Governor) <JL.Haynes@delaware.gov>; Johnson, Kendra (LegHall) <Kendra.Johnson@delaware.gov>; Brock, Nicholas (LegHall) <Nicholas.Brock@delaware.gov>; MinorBrown, Melissa C (LegHall) <Melissa.MinorBrown@delaware.gov>; Patterson, Jon (LegHall) <Jon.Patterson@delaware.gov>; Del Collo, Caitlin (DSHA) <Caitlin.DelCollo@delaware.gov>; Denison, Douglas (DNREC) <Douglas.Denison@delaware.gov>; Harris-aikens, Donna (K12) <donna.harris-aikens@doe.k12.de.us>; String, Aimee (DelDOT) <Aimee.String@delaware.gov>; Berryhill, James (DHSS) <James.Berryhill@delaware.gov>; Chandler, Kimberly (DSHS) <Kimberly.Chandler@delaware.gov>; Brewington-Carr, Sherese (DHR) <Sherese.Brewington-C@delaware.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 135

Sophie,

Thanks for the call on Friday and for the agreement to work though the Administration's concerns with the bill. As you are aware, In the past few years, many have come to understand and try to address homelessness in new and creative ways, and the Admin is grateful to anyone who would try to help our neighbors that need it the most.

At DSHA, the Agency is working on fixing what they can. Last year, the Admin created the Collaborative to bring people together to work through solutions, including understanding what funding exists in state agencies, learning what works and what doesn't, and connecting with members of our communities to explore support. The new subcommittees will drill down on specific needs and hopefully bring more answers.

DSHA is also increasing shelter capacity by standing up two new Hope Centers – one in Kent and one in Sussex – along with continuing to work with members of the General Assembly who are bringing possible solutions to the table, including diversion court.

We will not speak out against the bill at your hearing, however, we respectfully request the bill not move until such time as these concerns can be addressed. Also, we note you are doing a substitute and we would like to review that text before we meet as well.

Key Concerns we need to work though on your bill include (this is not a comprehensive list):

- Federal housing policy changes put future homelessness funding in doubt – supporting this bill could potentially disqualify DE for receipt of federal funding
- Property rights concerns
- DAR opposes the bill – concerned about property owners' rights'
- The threshold for "adequate alternative indoor space" is very high - bill does not provide jurisdictions with resources to create adequate alternative indoor space or to provide transportation to existing adequate alternative indoor space
- This point underscores the work that we are doing to create two new Hope Centers – we are actively trying to expand shelter capacity
- Fiscal note is "indeterminable, potentially significant"
- Bill waives sovereign immunity of state or local gov'ts – unknown how many suits would occur – could result in significant legal fees and settlement costs
- DHCR would be charged with investigating/enforcing – additional workload
- An adequate indoor space is to be made available in real time - potential issue because shelter and housing capacity fluctuates daily, compliance may be difficult or impossible to sustain on an ongoing basis
- Existing emergency shelter models, including Hope Center and traditional shelters, may not qualify if the bill requires "permanent" housing or housing available "indefinitely," which could exclude current response systems
- Definitions of homelessness may not align with HUD standards, creating inconsistencies with PIT Count, program frameworks, and statewide reporting
- Potential applicability to federal lands may require further legal clarification regarding jurisdictional limits
- DNREC and Education has concerns about how this will apply to schools.

John

**John Kane**

Policy Director

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