

# The Homeless Rescued Act

Draft Bill Proposal + Non-Binding Model Assessment

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**Note:** This document is a policy draft written for discussion. It is not legal advice.

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Homeless Rescued Act.”

## SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

**(a) Findings.** Congress finds that—

- 1 Unsheltered homelessness exposes people to preventable harm and places avoidable strain on emergency services.
- 2 A humane national response requires an immediate, voluntary rescue offer that prioritizes dignity and public safety.
- 3 Public accommodation can be provided without criminalization when clear, enforceable conduct standards are maintained.

**(b) Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is to establish a nationwide, voluntary rescue-lodging guarantee that—

- 1 moves people indoors quickly and safely,
- 2 places rescued individuals among the public through distributed lodging placements,
- 3 protects the public through clear conduct rules and swift enforcement, and
- 4 funds the rescue mission through federal appropriations as a shared civic responsibility.

## SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

**Eligible Individual.** A person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a person living in a place not meant for human habitation.

**Participating Lodging Provider.** A hotel, motel, or similar lawful lodging business that enters a voluntary contract under this Act.

**Rescue Lodging Placement.** A room provided under contract to an Eligible Individual.

**Mixed-Public Placement.** A Rescue Lodging Placement within a normal lodging provider where the individual resides alongside other guests, subject to distributed placement caps.

**Stabilization Placement.** An alternative placement with higher supervision and support options.

**Dove Outreach Team.** Trained outreach staff and peer navigators funded under this Act to offer voluntary rescue lodging and optional supports.

## SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL RESCUE LODGING PROGRAM.

**(a) Program Established.** The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (“Secretary”) shall establish the National Rescue Lodging Program (NRLP) to provide immediate voluntary shelter through contracts with

Participating Lodging Providers.

**(b) Voluntary Participation.** Participation by Eligible Individuals is voluntary. No person shall be detained, confined, or compelled to enter a placement solely for being homeless.

## **SECTION 5. DOVE OUTREACH TEAMS.**

The Secretary shall fund Dove Outreach Teams to locate Eligible Individuals, offer rescue lodging without threats or coercion, coordinate transport to placements, and provide optional navigation to IDs, benefits, medical care, treatment resources, and employment services.

Dove Outreach Teams shall operate under a trauma-informed, dignity-first standard and shall not condition basic rescue lodging on program participation beyond safety rules.

## **SECTION 6. LODGING CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTED PLACEMENT CAPS.**

**(a) Voluntary Contracts.** The Secretary may enter contracts with Lodging Providers to secure rooms at negotiated rates.

**(b) Distributed Placement Requirement.** The Secretary shall prefer contracts that distribute placements across multiple properties and limit concentration.

**(c) Placement Caps.** Each Participating Lodging Provider shall have a cap on rescue rooms as a percentage of total rooms (for example, 1-5%), unless the Provider voluntarily elects a higher cap.

**(d) No Forced Takeover.** Nothing in this Act authorizes compulsory seizure or requisition of private lodging property for rescue placements.

## **SECTION 7. CONDUCT RULES AND PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARD.**

**(a) Core Rule.** Individuals in rescue lodging must follow standard hotel rules and the additional Public Safety Standard in subsection (b).

**(b) Public Safety Standard (Zero Tolerance).** The following are grounds for immediate removal from the property:

- harassment, intimidation, stalking, or persistent unwanted solicitation of guests or staff;
- threats or violence;
- vandalism or theft; or
- repeated disruptive conduct that materially interferes with guests' use of the premises.

**(c) Hotel Authority Preserved.** Participating Lodging Providers retain immediate authority to remove individuals for violations of the Public Safety Standard.

## **SECTION 8. THE THREE-OPTION CONSEQUENCE MENU.**

When an individual is removed under Section 7(b), the NRLP shall offer one of the following three options (chosen by the individual), within a reasonable time window:

**Option 1 — Stabilization Placement Transfer (Voluntary):** Immediate transfer to a Stabilization Placement designed for higher supervision and support.

**Option 2 — Day-Center + Reapplication Track (Voluntary):** Transfer to a day-center/service hub for hygiene, ID/phone help, and a cooling-off period; eligibility to reapply after a defined interval.

**Option 3 — Decline Services and Depart:** The individual may decline all placements/services and leave.

**No jail by default.** Removal under this Act is not a criminal penalty. Law enforcement involvement is limited to genuine criminal conduct.

## **SECTION 9. PROTECTIONS AGAINST “TRAP” CONDITIONS.**

**(a) No Locked Placements.** No placement funded by this Act may lock residents in or restrict movement except under existing lawful medical or mental-health hold standards unrelated to homelessness status.

**(b) Services Offered, Not Forced.** Support services shall be readily available, but participation is not mandatory for continued lodging, except where necessary to enforce safety.

## **SECTION 10. FUNDING.**

**(a) Authorization of Appropriations.** Congress authorizes appropriations sufficient to fund rescue lodging contracts, Dove Outreach Teams, Stabilization Placements and day centers, and risk management and oversight.

**(b) Cost Controls.** The Secretary shall implement cost controls including negotiated rate ceilings, performance-based renewal, and fraud prevention.

## **SECTION 11. OVERSIGHT, METRICS, AND REPORTING.**

HUD shall track at minimum:

- number of individuals offered rescue lodging;
- time from contact to placement;
- retention and exits;
- hotel incident rates;
- changes in emergency service utilization (ER, EMS) where measurable; and
- participant and community feedback.

HUD shall publish an annual report to Congress with national and local results and recommended adjustments.

## **SECTION 12. CIVIL RIGHTS, PRIVACY, AND NONDISCRIMINATION.**

Personal data collected shall be minimized and protected. Program participation shall not be used as a pretext for unrelated surveillance. Nondiscrimination protections apply to both guests and participants.

## **SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.

# SECTION 14. MODEL ASSESSMENT AND NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATION

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You asked for “personal thoughts” and whether I would vote for this. I do not have personal beliefs and I cannot vote. What I can provide is a transparent, non-binding policy assessment based on common public-policy criteria (dignity, safety, legality, feasibility, and cost).

## Overall assessment

As drafted, the Homeless Rescued Act is a strong humane alternative to criminalization because it prioritizes voluntary indoor placement, protects hotel guests via a clear zero-tolerance safety standard, and avoids compulsory seizure of private property by relying on contracts funded by federal appropriations.

## Strengths

- Fast harm reduction: moves people indoors quickly, reducing exposure risks and stabilizing daily life.
- Integration goal: “mixed-public placement” with caps encourages normalization rather than warehousing.
- Clear safety boundary: immediate removal for harassment or threats protects paying guests and staff.
- Not a trap: the three-option menu preserves voluntariness while limiting ongoing harm.
- Scalable oversight: defines basic metrics and annual reporting requirements.

## Key risks and recommended amendments

**Due process and consistency.** Immediate removal is appropriate for safety, but the Act should add a lightweight review or appeal channel to reduce arbitrary or discriminatory enforcement while preserving hotel authority.

**Hotel participation and capacity.** Add explicit minimum capacity targets by region and a rapid contracting playbook to avoid uneven coverage and local shortfalls.

**Cost predictability.** Add budget guardrails (rate ceilings tied to local market indices, audit triggers, and anti-fraud controls) to avoid runaway spending.

**Behavioral health crises.** Define a crisis response pathway (non-police clinician response where available) so disability-related episodes are handled safely and lawfully.

**Reapplication and cooling-off.** Define a standard cooling-off interval and a clear path to regain eligibility for mixed-public placements after violations.

## Would I support this as a voter?

If I were forced to choose a yes or no position purely on policy merits, I would support advancing this bill (a “YES” position) with the amendments above, because it offers a humane off-ramp from street homelessness while protecting the public through clear safety rules and voluntary participation.

## How I would summarize the bill in one line

A voluntary, federally funded rescue-lodging guarantee that integrates people into normal environments, enforces immediate safety boundaries, and avoids turning help into punishment.