By:  Harrison H.B. No. 4242

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to standardizing definitions of homelessness.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 531.001, Government Code, is amended by adding subsection (9) to read as follows:

(9)  "Homeless", "homelessness", and "homeless persons" mean individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 2.  Section 539.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 539.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:~~,~~

(1)  "~~d~~Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(2)  "Homeless", "homeless family", "homeless youth", and "person experiencing homelessness" mean individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 3.  Section 2306.004, Government Code, is amended by adding subsection (12-b) to read as follows:

(12-b)  "Homeless", "homelessness", and "homeless individuals" mean individuals or families lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter I) as it existed on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.