

HOUSE BILL No. 4097

February 7, 1989, Introduced by Reps. Martin, Perry Bullard, Stupak, Van Regenmorter, Muxlow, Gilmer, Van Singel, Johnson and Gubow and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to establish a neighborhood safe house program; to prescribe the powers and duties of the department of state police and certain other agencies and organizations; and to prescribe penalties.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act, "neighborhood safe house"
2 means a house, designated by a sign bearing the standard neigh-
3 borhood safe house symbol, occupied by a responsible adult, where
4 a child may seek help when he or she faces an emergency such as
5 being bullied, followed, threatened, or hurt while walking or
6 playing in the neighborhood.

7 Sec. 2. (1) The department of state police shall do all of
8 the following:

9 (a) Develop guidelines for the establishment and operation
10 of neighborhood safe house programs.

1 (b) Design or adopt a standard symbol and sign to be used
2 statewide by neighborhood safe house programs to designate a
3 neighborhood safe house. The sign shall be one that is not
4 easily reproduced and is easily seen from a distance. The signs
5 shall be numbered and made available at cost to local law
6 enforcement agencies sponsoring or cooperating with a sponsor of
7 a neighborhood safe house program.

8 (c) Develop or adopt a model application form for designa-
9 tion of a home as a neighborhood safe house.

10 (d) Make information available to local nonprofit organi-
11 zations, school districts, and local law enforcement agencies
12 concerning the neighborhood safe house program.

13 (e) Publicize the neighborhood safe house program in as many
14 ways as is reasonably practical.

15 (f) Maintain a statewide register of neighborhood safe
16 houses.

17 (g) Cooperate with local law enforcement agencies in con-
18 ducting background checks on persons who apply to have their
19 homes designated as neighborhood safe houses.

20 (2) The department of state police may promulgate rules pur-
21 suant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306
22 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of
23 the Michigan Compiled Laws, to implement this act.

24 Sec. 3. (1) A local law enforcement agency, or a school
25 district or local nonprofit organization in cooperation with a
26 local law enforcement agency, may sponsor a neighborhood safe
27 house program.

1 (2) A neighborhood safe house program sponsor shall supply a
2 numbered sign bearing the standard neighborhood safe house symbol
3 to a person in the community who applies for designation of his
4 or her home as a neighborhood safe house, if the person agrees in
5 writing to follow the terms of the neighborhood safe house pro-
6 gram and if the person and any other adult residing in the
7 person's home passes a background check conducted by a local law
8 enforcement agency. A sign shall not be issued to a person who
9 has been convicted of a crime involving sexual conduct, a con-
10 trolled substance, or violence or who has an adult residing in
11 his or her home who has a conviction for such a crime.

12 (3) A neighborhood safe house program sponsor shall keep a
13 register of the neighborhood safe houses within the program and
14 shall furnish information to the department of state police that
15 is necessary for the statewide register.

16 (4) A local law enforcement agency that sponsors a neighbor-
17 hood safe house program or agrees to cooperate with a local non-
18 profit organization or school district that sponsors a neighbor-
19 hood safe house program shall conduct a background check, includ-
20 ing a criminal history check, on each person who applies to have
21 his or her home designated as a neighborhood safe house and on
22 each adult residing in the person's home.

23 Sec. 4. (1) A person shall not display a sign bearing the
24 symbol of the neighborhood safe house program so that the sign is
25 visible from the outside of the person's house unless all of the
26 following apply:

1 (a) The person's home has been approved as a neighborhood
2 safe house by a neighborhood safe house sponsor.

3 (b) The person has never been convicted of a crime involving
4 sexual conduct, a controlled substance, or violence.

5 (c) To the person's knowledge, no other adult residing in
6 the person's home has ever been convicted of a crime involving
7 sexual conduct, a controlled substance, or violence.

8 (2) A neighborhood safe house sign is the property of the
9 local law enforcement agency that sponsors or cooperates with the
10 sponsor of the neighborhood safe house program that issued the
11 sign. If the sponsor determines that a person's home no longer
12 qualifies as a neighborhood safe house, the person shall return
13 the sign to the local law enforcement agency.

14 (3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a
15 misdemeanor.