

While I do not support this bill as written, I do support the underlying humanity of making sure homeless people are treated the same way as any other user of a public space. I think that homeless people should be allowed to use parks and other public spaces in the same way we all use them without fear of harassment or ejection. I do not support a bill that establishes a blanket right of anyone (homeless or otherwise) to take over and turn a public area into a private use area. While a few individuals sleeping or camping in a park or parking lot would not likely cause issues, a large number of people camping in a park would make the park unusable for its primary purpose, namely public recreation. Homeless people do deserve the right to be able to rest and sleep but not at the expense of depriving others of the use of a public park. The bill also makes no provision for increasing the amount of money available to the agencies tasked with managing the parks for things such as garbage and waste removal, additional need for rest rooms, etc. I do believe that the plight of people rendered homeless is deserving of public attention and spending, but I do not believe turning parks into de-facto residential areas is a good way to do it.