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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1672

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Wineberry, J. Kohl, Wood, Anderson, Sheldon, Veloria, Scott, Jones, Ludwig, Brough and Foreman)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to public health; adding new sections to chapter  
2 43.20A RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many homeless  
5 people in the state of Washington have impaired eyesight that reduces  
6 their chances of obtaining employment or training for employment. The  
7 legislature finds that it is in the public interest to facilitate  
8 ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians in providing free vision  
9 services to homeless people of the state.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The secretary of the department of social  
11 and health services shall coordinate the efforts of nonprofit agencies  
12 working with the homeless, the Washington academy of eye physicians and  
13 surgeons, the Washington optometric association, and the opticians  
14 association of Washington to deliver vision services to the homeless  
15 free of charge. The secretary shall enter into agreements identifying  
16 cooperating agencies and the circumstances under which specified  
17 services will be delivered.

1        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 3.**     To the extent consistent with the  
2 department's budget, the secretary shall pay for the eyeglasses  
3 hardware prescribed and dispensed pursuant to the program set up in  
4 sections 2 through 6 of this act. The secretary shall also attempt to  
5 obtain private sector funding for this program.

6        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 4.**     Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and  
7 dispensing opticians may utilize used eyeglass frames obtained through  
8 donations to this program.

9        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 5.**     An ophthalmologist, optometrist, or  
10 dispensing optician who provides:

- 11            (1) Free vision services; or  
12            (2) Eyeglasses, or any part thereof, including used frames, at or  
13 below retail cost to homeless people in the state of Washington  
14 and who is not reimbursed for such services or eyeglasses as allowed  
15 for in section 6 of this act, is not liable for civil damages for  
16 injury to a homeless person resulting from any act or omission in  
17 providing such services or eyeglasses, other than an act or omission  
18 constituting gross negligence or intentional conduct.

19        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 6.**     Nothing in sections 2 through 6 of this act  
20 shall prevent ophthalmologists, optometrists, or dispensing opticians  
21 from collecting for either their goods or services, or both from third-  
22 party payers covering the goods or services for homeless persons.

23        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 7.**     The program created in sections 2 through 6  
24 of this act shall be known as the eye care for the homeless program in  
25 Washington.

26        NEW SECTION.     **Sec. 8.**     Sections 2 through 7 of this act are each  
27 added to chapter 43.20A RCW.

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