
HOUSE BILL 1672

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Wineberry, J. Kohl, Wood, Anderson, Sheldon, Veloria, Scott, Jones, Ludwig, Brough and Foreman

Read first time 02/05/93. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to public health; adding new sections to chapter
2 43.20A; 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 and opticians in providing free vision services to
9 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, and the opticians association of Washington to deliver vision
14 services to the homeless free of charge. The secretary shall enter
15 into agreements identifying cooperating agencies and the circumstances
16 under which specified 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 and dispensing opticians
7 may utilize used eyeglass frames obtained through donations to this
8 program.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** An ophthalmologist or dispensing optician
10 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 shall be immune from all civil or administrative processes except for
15 malicious conduct clearly intended to harm these persons.

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

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

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

--- END ---