
HOUSE BILL 1859

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Brown, Leonard, Foreman, Karahalios, L. Johnson, Lemmon, Cothorn, Long, King, Jones and Patterson

Read first time 02/12/93. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment and operation of short-term
2 emergency services including shelter for runaway and street youth;
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating a new section;
4 making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that adequate
7 services are not available to runaway youth, and that the availability
8 of timely and appropriate services for runaway youth is a critical
9 factor in keeping these youth from moving to the streets. The
10 legislature further finds that local governments, private businesses,
11 and charities are attempting to address this critical unmet need in
12 many areas of the state.

13 (2) It is the intent of section 2 of this act to forge a
14 partnership between local governments, private businesses, charities,
15 and the state to support the establishment and operation of short-term
16 shelter programs in areas of the state experiencing extreme shortages
17 of care for runaway and homeless youth.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department of social and health services shall award matching
4 grants to local governments to help support the costs of operating
5 short-term shelters established through local government and private
6 funding. Funds may be used to support staff necessary to operate and
7 maintain short-term shelters. Funds may not be used for capital
8 expenditures.

9 Local governments must demonstrate that the emergency shelters meet
10 the following criteria:

- 11 (1) Shelters will be drug and alcohol free at all times;
- 12 (2) The length of stay for youth shall not exceed ten days;
- 13 (3) Counseling will be available to the youth staying in the
14 shelters to assist them in reconciling with their families or in
15 identifying appropriate alternative residential placement;
- 16 (4) The shelters will maintain compliance with applicable licensing
17 and state and local building codes;
- 18 (5) Grants for the establishment, operation, or both, of short-term
19 shelters shall be made competitively to local governments based on
20 their commitment to supporting short-term housing and intervention
21 services to runaway and homeless youth, demonstrated collaboration
22 between youth serving organizations, commitments to support from
23 private sources, and compliance with the assurances outlined in this
24 section;
- 25 (6) Fifty percent of the funding for shelters shall be community
26 matching funds provided by private or public entities in the
27 communities requesting funding. Contributions of materials, supplies,
28 physical facilities, or volunteer time may be considered as all or part
29 of the funding provided by the community. Federal funds may be used as
30 match for the purposes of this section.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three million dollars, or as much
32 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
33 June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the department of social and
34 health services for purposes of this act.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
36 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
2 effect immediately.

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