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HOUSE BILL 1544

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Radcliff, Cooke, Skinner, O'Brien, Scott, Cooper, Conway, Costa, Lantz, Cole, Wolfe, Mason and Wood

Read first time 01/30/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to homelessness prevention activities; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of community, trade, and economic development  
7 shall establish and administer a homelessness prevention program.

8 (2) The goals of the program are to:

9 (a) Provide temporary emergency mortgage loans or rental assistance  
10 loans on behalf of very low-income households on a state-wide basis who  
11 are unable to make mortgage, property tax, or rental payments on their  
12 residences and are at risk of losing their homes;

13 (b) Prevent the dislocation of individuals and families from their  
14 permanent residences and their communities; and

15 (c) Assist very low-income households to attain housing through  
16 loans for downpayment assistance, payment of rental security deposits,  
17 or rent.

18 (3) Organizations eligible to receive homelessness prevention funds  
19 for distribution under the program are those organizations that are

1 eligible to receive assistance through the Washington housing trust  
2 fund created under chapter 43.185 RCW.

3 (4) The local organizations shall use the funds to make grants or  
4 loans following the guidelines specified in RCW 43.63A.610 through  
5 43.63A.640. The local organization shall establish a revolving grant  
6 and loan fund with funds received as loan repayments and shall continue  
7 to make grants or loans or both grants and loans from funds received as  
8 loan repayments to eligible very low-income households.

9 (5) Administrative costs of the department may not exceed one  
10 percent of available funds.

11 (6) As used in this section:

12 (a) "Very low-income household" means a family or person whose  
13 income is at or below fifty percent of the median family income,  
14 adjusted for household size, for the county.

15 (b) "Rental assistance" means a payment made to the landlord, on  
16 behalf of the very low-income household, for a period not to exceed six  
17 months of rent.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) The rental housing voucher program is created in the  
21 department. The department shall:

22 (a) Develop a process to evaluate applications for grant assistance  
23 under this section;

24 (b) Distribute funds to eligible organizations as grants. The  
25 eligible local organizations shall use the funds for the purpose of  
26 administering a program designed to provide rental assistance payments  
27 to very low-income households;

28 (c) Provide technical assistance to local organizations in the  
29 development of a local rental assistance program; and

30 (d) Take other actions the department deems necessary for the  
31 proper implementation of this section.

32 (2) Rental assistance may be provided, by the eligible local  
33 organization, under the following guidelines:

34 (a) As either a grant or loan and must not exceed an amount equal  
35 to twenty-four months of rental payments;

36 (b) To eligible very low-income households; and

37 (c) Only made directly to the landlord.

1 (3) Administrative costs of the department may not exceed one  
2 percent of available funds.

3 (4) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and  
5 economic development.

6 (b) "Eligible organizations" means an organization eligible to  
7 receive assistance through the Washington housing trust fund created in  
8 chapter 43.185 RCW.

9 (c) "Rental assistance" means a payment made to the landlord, on  
10 behalf of the very low-income household.

11 (d) "Very low-income household" means a family or person whose  
12 income is at or below fifty percent of the median family income,  
13 adjusted for household size, for the county.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two million five hundred thousand  
15 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
16 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, from the general fund to the  
17 department of community, trade, and economic development for the  
18 purposes of section 1 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two million five hundred thousand  
20 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
21 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the  
22 department of community, trade, and economic development for the  
23 purposes of section 1 of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of five million dollars, or as much  
25 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending  
26 June 30, 1998, from the general fund to the department of community,  
27 trade, and economic development for the purposes of section 2 of this  
28 act.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of five million dollars, or as much  
30 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending  
31 June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the department of community,  
32 trade, and economic development for the purposes of section 2 of this  
33 act.

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