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HOUSE BILL 2548

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Pettigrew, Darneille, Boldt, Miloscia, Bailey, Shabro, McIntire, Schual-Berke, Moeller, Chase and Santos

Read first time 01/15/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a food bank outreach pilot program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is an  
6 unacceptably high level of hunger in Washington. Washington has  
7 repeatedly ranked in the top five states with the highest levels of  
8 hunger. Though many people in Washington have been assisted by the  
9 food stamp program, there are significant numbers of eligible families  
10 who do not receive food stamps. One of the barriers to receiving food  
11 stamps is the burdensome application process. The legislature finds  
12 that it is important to take steps to increase access and participation  
13 in the food stamp program.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The food bank outreach pilot program is created. The purpose  
17 of the food bank outreach program is to improve access to department of  
18 social and health services food assistance programs by coordinating

1 with existing food bank sites. The pilot program is designed to locate  
2 a department of social and health services intake worker at each pilot  
3 site a minimum of one time per week in order to improve access to  
4 department programs and services.

5 (2) The department shall implement the food bank outreach pilot  
6 program no later than January 1, 2005.

7 (3) The department shall select six pilot sites with three sites to  
8 be located in eastern Washington and three sites to be located in  
9 western Washington. To be eligible as a pilot site, the site must  
10 consist of an organization that provides food to hungry and low-income  
11 individuals.

12 (4) The department shall schedule an intake worker to regularly be  
13 available at the pilot site to assist clients. The intake worker shall  
14 be scheduled no less than one time per week at each site.

15 (5) The department shall adopt rules as necessary under chapter  
16 34.05 RCW to implement the pilot program established under this  
17 section.

18 (6) The food bank outreach pilot program expires December 31, 2005.

19 (7) The department shall submit a report to the legislature that  
20 summarizes the effectiveness of the program by December 31, 2005.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2005.

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