

2SHB 2163 - H AMD 355

By Representative Ormsby

WITHDRAWN 03/15/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Despite laudable efforts by all levels of
4 government, private individuals, nonprofit organizations, and
5 charitable foundations to end homelessness, the number of homeless
6 persons in Washington is unacceptably high. The state's homeless
7 population, furthermore, includes a large number of families with
8 children, youth, and employed persons. The legislature finds that the
9 fiscal and societal costs of homelessness are high for both the public
10 and private sectors, and that ending homelessness should be a goal for
11 state and local government.

12 The legislature finds that there are many causes of homelessness,
13 including a shortage of affordable housing; a shortage of family-wage
14 jobs which undermines housing affordability; a lack of an accessible
15 and affordable health care system available to all who suffer from
16 physical and mental illnesses and chemical and alcohol dependency;
17 domestic violence; and a lack of education and job skills necessary to
18 acquire adequate wage jobs in the economy of the twenty-first century.

19 The support and commitment of all sectors of the statewide
20 community is critical to the chances of success in ending homelessness
21 in Washington. While the provision of housing and housing-related
22 services to the homeless should be administered at the local level to
23 best address specific community needs, the legislature also recognizes
24 the need for the state to play a primary coordinating, supporting, and
25 monitoring role. There must be a clear assignment of responsibilities
26 and a clear statement of achievable and quantifiable goals. Systematic
27 statewide data collection on homelessness in Washington must be a
28 critical component of such a program enabling the state to work with
29 local governments to count homeless persons and assist them in finding
30 housing.

1 The systematic collection and rigorous evaluation of homeless data,
2 a search for and implementation through adequate resource allocation of
3 best practices, and the systematic measurement of progress toward
4 interim goals and the ultimate goal of ending homelessness are all
5 necessary components of a statewide effort to end homelessness in
6 Washington by July 1, 2015.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
8 homelessness housing and assistance act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply
10 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
12 economic development.

13 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of community,
14 trade, and economic development.

15 (3) "Homeless person" means an individual living without permanent
16 shelter, including an individual living outside, in an emergency
17 shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include a
18 transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits
19 exist.

20 (4) "Washington homeless census" means an annual statewide census
21 conducted as a collaborative effort by towns, cities, counties,
22 community-based organizations, and state agencies, with the technical
23 support and coordination of the department, to count and collect data
24 on all homeless individuals in Washington.

25 (5) "Homeless housing account" means the state treasury account
26 receiving the state's portion of income from revenue from the sources
27 established by section 9 of this act.

28 (6) "Homeless housing grant program" means the vehicle by which
29 competitive grants are awarded by the department, utilizing moneys from
30 the homeless housing account, to local governments for programs
31 directly related to housing homeless individuals and families,
32 addressing the root causes of homelessness, preventing homelessness,
33 collecting data on homeless individuals, and other efforts directly
34 related to housing homeless persons.

35 (7) "Local government" means a county government in the state of

1 Washington or a city government, if the legislative authority of the
2 city affirmatively elects to accept the responsibility for housing
3 homeless persons within its borders.

4 (8) "Housing continuum" means the progression of individuals along
5 a housing-focused continuum with homelessness at one end and
6 homeownership at the other.

7 (9) "Local homeless housing advisory council" means a voluntary
8 local committee created to advise a local government on the creation of
9 a local homeless housing strategic plan and participate in a local
10 homeless housing program. It must include at least one homeless or
11 formerly homeless person, and if feasible, a representative of a
12 private nonprofit organization with experience in low-income housing.

13 (10) "Long-term private or public housing" and "permanent shelter"
14 mean subsidized and unsubsidized rental or owner-occupied housing in
15 which there is no established time limit for habitation of less than
16 two years.

17 (11) "Interagency council on homelessness" means a committee
18 appointed by the governor and consisting of, at least, the director of
19 the department; the secretary of the department of corrections; the
20 secretary of the department of social and health services; the director
21 of the department of veterans affairs; and the secretary of the
22 department of health.

23 (12) "Homeless population" means, at the time of the first
24 statewide homeless census, the number of persons living without housing
25 or in temporary shelters, and after that time it shall mean the number
26 living without housing, including those who have refused a bona fide
27 offer of housing under the local homeless housing plan, or in temporary
28 shelter as of that later date plus the number who have successfully
29 secured and remain in transitional or permanent housing under the local
30 plan since the date of the first homeless census, or having secured
31 such housing, have moved out of the local area.

32 (13) "Performance measurement" means the process of comparing
33 specific measures of success against ultimate and interim goals.

34 (14) "Community action agency" means a nonprofit private or public
35 organization established under the economic opportunity act of 1964.

36 (15) "Housing authority" means any of the public corporations
37 created by chapter 35.82 RCW.

1 (16) "Homeless housing program" means the program authorized under
2 this chapter as administered by the department at the state level and
3 by the local government or its designated subcontractor at the local
4 level.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** There is created within the department the
6 homeless housing program to develop and coordinate a statewide
7 strategic plan aimed at housing homeless persons. The program shall be
8 developed and administered by the department with advice and input from
9 the affordable housing advisory board established in RCW 43.185B.020.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall annually conduct a
11 Washington homeless census or count consistent with the requirements of
12 RCW 43.63A.655. The census shall make every effort to count all
13 homeless individuals living outdoors, in shelters, and in transitional
14 housing, coordinated, when reasonably feasible, with already existing
15 homeless census projects including those funded in part by the United
16 States department of housing and urban development under the McKinney-
17 Vento homeless assistance program. The department shall determine, in
18 consultation with local governments, the data to be collected.

19 All personal information collected in the census is confidential,
20 and the department and each local government shall take all necessary
21 steps to protect the identity and confidentiality of each person
22 counted.

23 The department and each local government are prohibited from
24 disclosing any personally identifying information about any homeless
25 individual when there is reason to believe or evidence indicating that
26 the homeless individual is an adult or minor victim of domestic
27 violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or is the parent
28 or guardian of a child victim of domestic violence, dating violence,
29 sexual assault, or stalking; or revealing other confidential
30 information regarding HIV/AIDS status, as found in RCW 70.24.105. The
31 department and each local government shall not ask any homeless housing
32 provider to disclose personally identifying information about any
33 homeless individuals when the providers implementing those programs
34 have reason to believe or evidence indicating that those clients are
35 adult or minor victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual

1 assault, or stalking or are the parents or guardians of child victims
2 of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

3 The Washington homeless census shall be conducted annually on a
4 schedule created by the department. The department shall make summary
5 data by county available to the public each year. This data, and its
6 analysis, shall be included in the department's annual updated homeless
7 housing program strategic plan.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Six months after the first Washington
9 homeless census, the department shall, in consultation with the
10 interagency council on homelessness and the affordable housing advisory
11 board, prepare and publish a ten-year homeless housing program
12 strategic plan which shall outline statewide goals and performance
13 measures and shall be coordinated with the plan for homeless families
14 with children required under RCW 43.63A.650. Local governments' ten-
15 year homeless housing strategic plans shall not be substantially
16 inconsistent with the goals and program recommendations of the state
17 plan.

18 Program outcomes and performance measures and goals shall be
19 created by the department and reflected in the department's homeless
20 housing strategic plan as well as interim goals against which state and
21 local governments' performance may be measured, including:

22 (1) By the end of year one, completion of the first census as
23 described in section 5 of this act;

24 (2) By the end of each subsequent year, goals common to all local
25 programs which are measurable and the achievement of which would move
26 that community toward housing its homeless population; and

27 (3) By July 1, 2015, reduction of the homeless population statewide
28 and in each county by fifty percent.

29 The department shall report annually to the governor and the
30 appropriate committees of the legislature an assessment of its
31 performance in addressing the statewide homeless problem, and the
32 performance of each participating local government in creating and
33 executing a local homeless housing plan which meets the requirements of
34 this chapter. Based on the performance of local homeless housing
35 programs in meeting their interim goals, on general population changes
36 and on changes in the homeless population recorded in the annual

1 census, the department may revise the performance measures and goals of
2 the state plan, set goals for years following the initial ten-year
3 period, and recommend changes in local governments' plans.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Each local government shall create a local
5 homeless housing advisory council consisting of representatives from
6 the community and stakeholder groups, including one or more homeless or
7 formerly homeless individuals.

8 In lieu of creating a new local homeless housing advisory council,
9 a local government may designate an existing governmental or nonprofit
10 body which substantially conforms to this section and which includes at
11 least one homeless or recently homeless individual.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Each local government or its
13 subcontractor shall prepare a ten-year homeless housing plan for its
14 jurisdictional area which shall be not inconsistent with the
15 department's statewide ten-year plan and which shall be aimed at
16 eliminating homelessness, with a minimum goal of reducing homelessness
17 by fifty percent by July 1, 2015. Performance in meeting the goals of
18 this local plan shall be assessed annually in terms of the performance
19 measures published by the department. Local plans may include specific
20 local performance measures adopted by the local government legislative
21 authority, and may include recommendations for any state legislation
22 needed to meet the state or local plan goals.

23 (2) Eligible activities under the local plans include:

24 (a) Rental and furnishing of dwelling units for the use of homeless
25 persons;

26 (b) Costs of developing affordable housing for homeless persons,
27 and services for formerly homeless individuals and families residing in
28 transitional housing or permanent housing and still at risk of
29 homelessness;

30 (c) Operating subsidies for transitional housing or permanent
31 housing serving formerly homeless families or individuals;

32 (d) Services to prevent homelessness, such as emergency eviction
33 prevention programs including temporary rental subsidies to prevent
34 homelessness;

35 (e) Temporary services to assist persons leaving state institutions

1 and other state programs to prevent them from becoming or remaining
2 homeless;

3 (f) Outreach services for homeless individuals and families;

4 (g) Development and management of local homeless plans including
5 homeless census data collection; identification of goals, performance
6 measures, strategies, and costs and evaluation of progress towards
7 established goals;

8 (h) Rental vouchers payable to landlords for persons who are
9 homeless or below thirty percent of the median income or in immediate
10 danger of becoming homeless; and

11 (i) Other activities to reduce and prevent homelessness as
12 identified for funding in the local plan.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 36.22 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) In addition to the surcharge authorized in RCW 36.22.178, and
16 except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, an additional
17 surcharge of ten dollars shall be charged by the county auditor for
18 each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other charge
19 allowed by law. The funds collected pursuant to this section are to be
20 distributed and used as follows:

21 (a) The auditor shall retain two percent for collection of the fee,
22 and of the remainder shall remit sixty percent to the county, six
23 percent of which may be used by the county for administrative costs
24 related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for programs
25 which directly accomplish the goals of the county's strategic plan to
26 end homelessness, except that for each city in the county which elects
27 as authorized in section 12 of this act to operate its own homeless
28 housing program, the surcharge assessed under this section and paid in
29 connection with transactions in that city shall be transmitted at least
30 quarterly to the city treasurer, without any deduction for county
31 administrative costs, for use by the city for program costs which
32 directly contribute to the goals of the city's strategic plan to end
33 homelessness; of the funds received by the city, it may use six percent
34 for administrative costs for its homeless housing program.

35 (b) The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state
36 treasurer for deposit in the homeless housing account. The department
37 may use twelve and one-half percent of this amount for administration

1 of the program established in section 4 of this act, including the
2 costs of creating the statewide plan, measuring performance, providing
3 technical assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless
4 housing grant program. The remaining eighty-seven and one-half percent
5 is to be distributed by the department to local governments through the
6 homeless housing grant program.

7 (2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to
8 assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The homeless housing account is created in
10 the custody of the state treasurer. The state's portion of the
11 surcharge established in section 9 of this act must be deposited in the
12 account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the
13 homeless housing program as described in this chapter. Only the
14 director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the
15 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter
16 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) During each calendar year in which
18 moneys from the homeless housing account are available for use by the
19 department for the homeless housing grant program, the department shall
20 announce to all Washington counties, participating cities, and through
21 major media throughout the state, a grant application period of at
22 least ninety days' duration. This announcement will be made as often
23 as the director deems appropriate for proper utilization of resources.
24 The department shall then promptly grant as many applications as will
25 utilize available funds, less appropriate administrative costs of the
26 department as described in section 9 of this act.

27 (2) The department will develop, with advice and input from the
28 affordable housing advisory board established in RCW 43.185B.020,
29 criteria to evaluate grant applications.

30 (3) The department may approve applications only if they are
31 consistent with the local and state homeless housing program strategic
32 plans. The department may give preference to applications based on
33 some or all of the following criteria:

34 (a) The total homeless population in the applicant local government
35 service area, as reported by the most recent annual Washington homeless
36 census;

1 (b) Current local expenditures to provide housing for the homeless
2 and to address the underlying causes of homelessness as described in
3 section 1 of this act;

4 (c) Local government and private contributions pledged to the
5 program in the form of matching funds, property, infrastructure
6 improvements, and other contributions; and the degree of leveraging of
7 other funds from local government or private sources for the program
8 for which funds are being requested, to include recipient contributions
9 to total project costs, including allied contributions from other
10 sources such as professional, craft and trade services, and lender
11 interest rate subsidies;

12 (d) Construction projects or rehabilitation that will serve
13 homeless individuals or families for a period of at least twenty-five
14 years;

15 (e) Projects which demonstrate serving homeless populations with
16 the greatest needs, including projects that serve special needs
17 populations;

18 (f) The degree to which the applicant project represents a
19 collaboration between local governments, nonprofit community-based
20 organizations, local and state agencies, and the private sector,
21 especially through its integration with the coordinated and
22 comprehensive plan for homeless families with children required under
23 RCW 43.63A.650;

24 (g) The cooperation of the local government in the annual
25 Washington homeless census project;

26 (h) The commitment of the local government and any subcontracting
27 local governments, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit entities to
28 employ a diverse work force;

29 (i) The extent, if any, that the local homeless population is
30 disproportionate to the revenues collected under this chapter, RCW
31 36.22.178, and section 9 of this act; and

32 (j) Other elements shown by the applicant to be directly related to
33 the goal and the department's state strategic plan.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Only a local government is eligible to
35 receive a homeless housing grant from the homeless housing account.
36 Any city may assert responsibility for homeless housing within its
37 borders if it so chooses, by forwarding a resolution to the legislative

1 authority of the county stating its intention and its commitment to
2 operate a separate homeless housing program. The city shall then
3 receive the county's portion of the funds attributable to document
4 recordings involving transactions within the city. A participating
5 city may also then apply separately for homeless housing program
6 grants. A city choosing to operate a separate homeless housing program
7 shall be responsible for complying with all of the same requirements as
8 counties.

9 Local governments applying for homeless housing funds may
10 subcontract with any other local government, housing authority,
11 community action agency or other nonprofit organization for the
12 execution of programs contributing to the overall goal of ending
13 homelessness within a defined service area. All subcontracts shall be
14 consistent with the local homeless housing plan adopted by the
15 legislative authority of the local government, time limited, and filed
16 with the department and shall have specific performance terms. As an
17 alternative to a separate plan, two or more local governments may work
18 in concert to develop and execute a joint homeless housing strategic
19 plan, or to contract with another entity to do so. While a local
20 government has the authority to subcontract with other entities, the
21 local government continues to maintain the ultimate responsibility for
22 the homeless housing program within its borders.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The department shall allocate grant moneys
24 from the homeless housing account to finance in whole or in part
25 programs and projects in approved local government plans to assist
26 homeless individuals and families gain access to adequate housing,
27 prevent at-risk individuals from becoming homeless, address the root
28 causes of homelessness, track and report on homeless-related data, and
29 facilitate the movement of homeless or formerly homeless individuals
30 along the housing continuum toward more stable and independent housing.
31 The department may issue criteria or guidelines to guide local
32 governments in the application process.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The department shall develop a consistent
34 statewide data gathering instrument to monitor the performance of grant
35 recipients in order to determine compliance with the terms and

1 conditions set forth in the grant application or required by the
2 department.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** The department shall provide technical
4 assistance to any participating local government that requests such
5 assistance. Technical assistance activities may include:

6 (1) Assisting local governments to identify appropriate parties to
7 participate on local homeless housing advisory councils;

8 (2) Assisting local governments to identify appropriate service
9 providers with which the local governments may subcontract for service
10 provision and development activities, when necessary;

11 (3) Assisting local governments to implement or expand homeless
12 census programs to meet homeless housing program requirements;

13 (4) Assisting in the identification of "best practices" from other
14 areas;

15 (5) Assisting in identifying additional funding sources for
16 specific projects; and

17 (6) Training local government and subcontractor staff.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** The department shall establish a uniform
19 process for participating local governments to report progress toward
20 reducing homelessness and meeting locally established goals.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** The department may adopt such rules as may
22 be necessary to effect the purposes of this chapter.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The department shall ensure that the
24 state's interest is protected upon the development, use, sale, or
25 change of use of projects constructed, acquired, or financed in whole
26 or in part through the homeless housing grant program. These policies
27 may include, but are not limited to: (1) Requiring a share of the
28 appreciation in the project in proportion to the state's contribution
29 to the project, or (2) requiring a lump sum repayment of the grant upon
30 the sale or change of use of the project.

31 **Sec. 19.** RCW 36.22.178 and 2002 c 294 s 2 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a

1 surcharge of ten dollars per instrument shall be charged by the county
2 auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any
3 other charge authorized by law. The (~~auditor~~) county may retain up
4 to five percent of these funds collected (~~to administer~~) solely for
5 the collection, administration, and local distribution of these funds.
6 Of the remaining funds, forty percent of the revenue generated through
7 this surcharge will be transmitted monthly to the state treasurer who
8 will deposit the funds into the Washington housing trust account. The
9 office of community development of the department of community, trade,
10 and economic development will develop guidelines for the use of these
11 funds to support building operation and maintenance costs of housing
12 projects or units within housing projects that are affordable to
13 extremely low-income persons with incomes at or below thirty percent of
14 the area median income, and that require a supplement to rent income to
15 cover ongoing operating expenses. (~~Sixty percent of the revenue~~) All
16 of the remaining funds generated by this surcharge will be retained by
17 the county and be deposited into a fund that must be used by the county
18 and its cities and towns for housing projects or units within housing
19 projects that are affordable to very low-income persons with incomes at
20 or below fifty percent of the area median income. The portion of the
21 surcharge retained by a county shall be allocated to very low-income
22 housing projects or units within such housing projects in the county
23 and the cities within a county according to an interlocal agreement
24 between the county and the cities within the county, consistent with
25 countywide and local housing needs and policies. The funds generated
26 with this surcharge shall not be used for construction of new housing
27 if at any time the vacancy rate for available low-income housing within
28 the county rises above ten percent. The vacancy rate for each county
29 shall be developed using the state low-income vacancy rate standard
30 developed under subsection (3) of this section. (~~Permissible~~) Uses
31 of these local funds are limited to:

32 (a) Acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing
33 projects or units within housing projects that are affordable to very
34 low-income persons with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area
35 median income;

36 (b) Supporting building operation and maintenance costs of housing
37 projects or units within housing projects (~~built with~~) eligible to
38 receive housing trust funds, that are affordable to very low-income

1 persons with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median
2 income, and that require a supplement to rent income to cover ongoing
3 operating expenses;

4 (c) Rental assistance vouchers for housing projects or units within
5 housing projects that are affordable to very low-income persons with
6 incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income, to be
7 administered by a local public housing authority or other local
8 organization that has an existing rental assistance voucher program,
9 consistent with the United States department of housing and urban
10 development's section 8 rental assistance voucher program standards;
11 and

12 (d) Operating costs for emergency shelters and licensed overnight
13 youth shelters.

14 (2) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to
15 assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust.

16 (3) The real estate research center at Washington State University
17 shall develop a vacancy rate standard for low-income housing in the
18 state as described in RCW 18.85.540(1)(i).

19 **Sec. 20.** RCW 36.18.010 and 2002 c 294 s 3 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 County auditors or recording officers shall collect the following
22 fees for their official services:

23 For recording instruments, for the first page eight and one-half by
24 fourteen inches or less, five dollars; for each additional page eight
25 and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar. The fee for
26 recording multiple transactions contained in one instrument will be
27 calculated for each transaction requiring separate indexing as required
28 under RCW 65.04.050 as follows: The fee for each title or transaction
29 is the same fee as the first page of any additional recorded document;
30 the fee for additional pages is the same fee as for any additional
31 pages for any recorded document; the fee for the additional pages may
32 be collected only once and may not be collected for each title or
33 transaction;

34 For preparing and certifying copies, for the first page eight and
35 one-half by fourteen inches or less, three dollars; for each additional
36 page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

1 For preparing noncertified copies, for each page eight and one-half
2 by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

3 For administering an oath or taking an affidavit, with or without
4 seal, two dollars;

5 For issuing a marriage license, eight dollars, (this fee includes
6 taking necessary affidavits, filing returns, indexing, and transmittal
7 of a record of the marriage to the state registrar of vital statistics)
8 plus an additional five-dollar fee for use and support of the
9 prevention of child abuse and neglect activities to be transmitted
10 monthly to the state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund
11 plus an additional ten-dollar fee to be transmitted monthly to the
12 state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund. The
13 legislature intends to appropriate an amount at least equal to the
14 revenue generated by this fee for the purposes of the displaced
15 homemaker act, chapter 28B.04 RCW;

16 For searching records per hour, eight dollars;

17 For recording plats, fifty cents for each lot except cemetery plats
18 for which the charge shall be twenty-five cents per lot; also one
19 dollar for each acknowledgment, dedication, and description: PROVIDED,
20 That there shall be a minimum fee of twenty-five dollars per plat;

21 For recording of miscellaneous records not listed above, for the
22 first page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, five dollars;
23 for each additional page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less,
24 one dollar;

25 For modernization and improvement of the recording and indexing
26 system, a surcharge as provided in RCW 36.22.170((-));

27 For recording an emergency nonstandard document as provided in RCW
28 65.04.047, fifty dollars, in addition to all other applicable recording
29 fees((-));

30 For recording instruments, a surcharge as provided in RCW
31 36.22.178; and

32 For recording instruments, a surcharge as provided in section 9 of
33 this act.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 21. The department of social and health
35 services shall exempt payments to individuals provided under this
36 chapter when determining eligibility for public assistance.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** This chapter does not require either the
2 department or any local government to expend any funds to accomplish
3 the goals of this chapter other than the revenues authorized in this
4 act. However, neither the department nor any local government may use
5 any funds authorized in this act to supplant or reduce any existing
6 expenditures of public money for the reduction or prevention of
7 homelessness or services for homeless persons.

8 **Sec. 23.** RCW 43.185B.005 and 1993 c 478 s 1 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The legislature finds that:

11 (a) Housing is of vital statewide importance to the health, safety,
12 and welfare of the residents of the state;

13 (b) Reducing homelessness and moving individuals and families
14 toward stable, affordable housing is of vital statewide importance;

15 (c) Safe, affordable housing is an essential factor in stabilizing
16 communities;

17 (~~(e)~~) (d) Residents must have a choice of housing opportunities
18 within the community where they choose to live;

19 (~~(d)~~) (e) Housing markets are linked to a healthy economy and can
20 contribute to the state's economy;

21 (~~(e)~~) (f) Land supply is a major contributor to the cost of
22 housing;

23 (~~(f)~~) (g) Housing must be an integral component of any
24 comprehensive community and economic development strategy;

25 (~~(g)~~) (h) State and local government must continue working
26 cooperatively toward the enhancement of increased housing units by
27 reviewing, updating, and removing conflicting regulatory language;

28 (~~(h)~~) (i) State and local government should work together in
29 developing creative ways to reduce the shortage of housing;

30 (~~(i)~~) (j) The lack of a coordinated state housing policy inhibits
31 the effective delivery of housing for some of the state's most
32 vulnerable citizens and those with limited incomes; and

33 (~~(j)~~) (k) It is in the public interest to adopt a statement of
34 housing policy objectives.

35 (2) The legislature declares that the purposes of the Washington
36 housing policy act are to:

- 1 (a) Provide policy direction to the public and private sectors in
2 their attempt to meet the shelter needs of Washington residents;
- 3 (b) Reevaluate housing and housing-related programs and policies in
4 order to ensure proper coordination of those programs and policies to
5 meet the housing needs of Washington residents;
- 6 (c) Improve the delivery of state services and assistance to very
7 low-income and low-income households and special needs populations;
- 8 (d) Strengthen partnerships among all levels of government, and the
9 public and private sectors, including for-profit and nonprofit
10 organizations, in the production and operation of housing to targeted
11 populations including low-income and moderate-income households;
- 12 (e) Increase the supply of housing for persons with special needs;
- 13 (f) Encourage collaborative planning with social service providers;
- 14 (g) Encourage financial institutions to increase residential
15 mortgage lending; and
- 16 (h) Coordinate housing into comprehensive community and economic
17 development strategies at the state and local level.

18 **Sec. 24.** RCW 43.185B.009 and 1993 c 478 s 3 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 The objectives of the Washington housing policy act shall be to
21 attain the state's goal of a decent home in a healthy, safe environment
22 for every resident of the state by strengthening public and private
23 institutions that are able to:

24 (1) Develop an adequate and affordable supply of housing for all
25 economic segments of the population, including the destitute;

26 (2) Identify and reduce the causal factors preventing the state
27 from reaching its goal;

28 (3) Assist very low-income and special needs households who cannot
29 obtain affordable, safe, and adequate housing in the private market;

30 ((+3)) (4) Encourage and maintain home ownership opportunities;

31 ((+4)) (5) Reduce life-cycle housing costs while preserving public
32 health and safety;

33 ((+5)) (6) Preserve the supply of existing affordable housing;

34 ((+6)) (7) Provide housing for special needs populations;

35 ((+7)) (8) Ensure fair and equal access to the housing market;

36 ((+8)) (9) Increase the availability of mortgage credit at low
37 interest rates; and

1 (~~(9)~~) (10) Coordinate and be consistent with the goals,
2 objectives, and required housing element of the comprehensive plan in
3 the state's growth management act in RCW 36.70A.070.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** If any part of this act is found to be in
5 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
6 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
7 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
8 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
9 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
10 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal
11 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
12 funds by the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 26.** This act takes effect August 1, 2005.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 27.** Sections 1 through 8, 10 through 18, 21,
15 22, 25, and 26 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW."

16 Correct the title.

--- END ---