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## Housing Committee

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### SSB 5767

**Brief Description:** Developing plans to address the housing needs of homeless persons.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Haugen, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Franklin, Shin, Berkey and Hargrove).

#### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires each county to create a task force to develop a ten year plan to address short and long term housing for homeless persons and to develop guidelines for homeless housing programs and developments.
- Counties must report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by January, 2006. Reports will include information on any guidelines developed, potential partnerships to address homelessness, and requests for further involvement or support from the Legislature.

**Hearing Date:** 3/22/05

**Staff:** Robyn Dupuis (786-7166).

#### Background:

There exist a variety of local efforts addressing issues related to homelessness, however there currently exists no formal coordination at the state level, nor are there any formal state requirements of cities and counties related to their efforts to address homelessness within their boundaries. Current state law does not require local governments to develop a plan for ending homelessness.

#### Summary of Bill:

All counties must create a task force to develop a ten-year plan addressing short and long term housing for the homeless. Each city, code city and town within a county must participate on the county's task force. In addition to representatives from other local governments, each task force must be comprised, among others, of representatives of community businesses and residents, social and health care services, law enforcement, schools, civic and faith organizations, and housing authorities, as well as a homeless or former homeless individual. Counties that already have an existing group focused on homelessness that substantially conforms to the composition requirements of the taskforce, as well as those that are participating in the Washington Balance of

State Continuum of Care under the McKinney-Vento homelessness assistance act though the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, are not required to create a new task force.

In addition to the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness, the task force is charged with the establishment of guidelines, including standards for health and safety, as well as for public notification of proposed facilities, for shelters, encampments, long-term housing and other housing programs and developments for the homeless population.

Each county must submit a report to the legislature and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development by January 2006 on guidelines developed for homeless housing developments and programs, any potential for public-private partnerships to address homelessness, and requests for further legislative support. Counties participating in the Washington Balance of State Continuum of Care may submit a single report including information on all participating counties. After the initial 2006 report, any additional substantive changes must be reported to the legislature on a continual basis.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.