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SENATE BILL 5219

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Carrell, Regala, Hargrove, Kline, Brandland, Swecker, Stevens, and King

Read first time 01/16/09. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to housing for populations at risk of being  
2 homeless, including those suffering from mental illness, those with  
3 criminal backgrounds, and those who may have chemical or alcohol  
4 dependency issues; creating a new section; and providing an expiration  
5 date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative task force to address  
8 housing for individuals at a high risk of being homeless is  
9 established. The task force will consist of members as follows:

10 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each  
11 of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

12 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
13 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
14 representatives; and

15 (iii) The governor shall appoint no more than six members to  
16 include representatives from the department of corrections, the  
17 department of community, trade, and economic development, the  
18 department of social and health services, the department of veterans  
19 affairs, and the interagency council on homelessness.

1 (b) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals  
2 from the public and private sector and may ask such persons to  
3 establish advisory committees or work groups. Those with whom the task  
4 force may consult include representatives from at least the following:

5 (i) Counties;

6 (ii) Cities;

7 (iii) Crime victims;

8 (iv) Community corrections officers;

9 (v) Multifamily housing and landlord associations;

10 (vi) Tenant associations or organizations advocating on behalf of  
11 tenants and the homeless; and

12 (vii) Local law enforcement.

13 (2) The task force shall choose its chair or cochairs from among  
14 its membership.

15 (3) At a minimum, the task force shall review and make  
16 recommendations regarding:

17 (a) Identification and removal of barriers to finding and  
18 maintaining affordable housing for individuals at risk of being  
19 homeless including, but not limited to, those suffering from mental  
20 illness, those with criminal backgrounds, and those who may have  
21 chemical or alcohol dependency issues;

22 (b) Inventory and review of current programs providing housing  
23 assistance to at-risk populations and advisable methods of providing  
24 housing assistance in the future;

25 (c) Methods to encourage private landlords to provide housing to  
26 at-risk populations;

27 (d) Statutory changes to the residential landlord-tenant act; and

28 (e) Quality controls to ensure housing standards for at-risk  
29 tenants.

30 (4) The task force shall present a report of its findings and  
31 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
32 legislature, including any proposed legislation, by November 15, 2009.

33 (5)(a) The task force shall use legislative facilities, and staff  
34 support must be provided by senate committee services and the house of  
35 representatives office of program research. The department of  
36 corrections, department of community, trade, and economic development,  
37 and department of social and health services shall cooperate with the

1 task force and shall provide information as the task force reasonably  
2 requests.

3 (b) Nonlegislative members of the joint legislative task force  
4 shall serve without compensation.

5 (c) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
6 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

7 (d) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the  
8 senate and the house of representatives.

9 (6) This section expires December 1, 2009.

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