
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1811

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By House Community Development & Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer, Roberts, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing for informed telephonic consent for
2 access to housing or homelessness services; and amending RCW
3 43.185C.180.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.185C.180 and 2006 c 349 s 8 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) In order to improve services for the homeless, the department,
8 within amounts appropriated by the legislature for this specific
9 purpose, shall implement the Washington homeless client management
10 information system for the ongoing collection and updates of
11 information about all homeless individuals in the state.

12 (2) Information about homeless individuals for the Washington
13 homeless client management information system shall come from the
14 Washington homeless census and from state agencies and community
15 organizations providing services to homeless individuals and families.

16 (a) Personally identifying information about homeless individuals
17 for the Washington homeless client management information system may
18 only be collected after having obtained informed, reasonably time
19 limited (i) written consent from the homeless individual to whom the

1 information relates, or (ii) telephonic consent from the homeless
2 individual, provided that written consent is obtained at the first time
3 the individual is physically present at an organization with access to
4 the Washington homeless client management information system.
5 Safeguards consistent with federal requirements on data collection must
6 be in place to protect homeless individuals' rights regarding their
7 personally identifying information.

8 (b) Data collection under this subsection shall be done in a manner
9 consistent with federally informed consent guidelines regarding human
10 research which, at a minimum, require that individuals be informed
11 about the expected duration of their participation((7)) in the
12 Washington homeless client management information system. An
13 explanation of whom to contact for answers to pertinent questions about
14 the data collection and their rights regarding their personal
15 identifying information, an explanation regarding whom to contact in
16 the event of injury to the individual related to the Washington
17 homeless client ((survey)) management information system, a description
18 of any reasonably foreseeable risks to the homeless individual, and a
19 statement describing the extent to which confidentiality of records
20 identifying the individual will be maintained.

21 (c) The department must adopt policies governing the appropriate
22 process for destroying Washington homeless client management
23 information system paper documents containing personally identifying
24 information when the paper documents are no longer needed. The
25 policies must not conflict with any federal data requirements.

26 (3) The Washington homeless client management information system
27 shall serve as an online information and referral system to enable
28 local governments and providers to connect homeless persons in the
29 database with available housing and other support services. Local
30 governments shall develop a capacity for continuous case management,
31 including independent living plans, when appropriate, to assist
32 homeless persons.

33 (4) The information in the Washington homeless client management
34 information system will also provide the department with the
35 information to consolidate and analyze data about the extent and nature
36 of homelessness in Washington state, giving emphasis to information
37 about the extent and nature of homelessness in Washington state among
38 families with children.

1 (5) The system may be merged with other data gathering and
2 reporting systems and shall:

3 (a) Protect the right of privacy of individuals;

4 (b) Provide for consultation and collaboration with all relevant
5 state agencies including the department of social and health services,
6 experts, and community organizations involved in the delivery of
7 services to homeless persons; and

8 (c) Include related information held or gathered by other state
9 agencies.

10 (6) Within amounts appropriated by the legislature, for this
11 specific purpose, the department shall evaluate the information
12 gathered and disseminate the analysis and the evaluation broadly, using
13 appropriate computer networks as well as written reports.

14 (7) The Washington homeless client management information system
15 shall be implemented by December 31, 2009, and updated with new
16 homeless client information at least annually.

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