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SENATE BILL 5252

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Angel and Wilson

Read first time 01/18/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services,  
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to measuring the effectiveness of document  
2 recording fee surcharge funds that support homeless programs;  
3 amending RCW 43.185C.040; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a surcharge on  
6 documents recorded for the sale or transfer of real property have  
7 generated approximately one hundred forty million dollars for  
8 homeless programs in Washington. The legislature further finds that  
9 according to a third-party audit of the use of surcharge funds,  
10 additional performance measures are needed to effectively measure the  
11 success of the state's homeless programs. Therefore, the legislature  
12 finds that developing and adopting recommendations to improve  
13 performance measures contained in the December 5, 2016, report  
14 required under RCW 43.185C.240(1)(e) will help ensure accountability  
15 and transparency of public funds and their effectiveness in reducing  
16 homelessness in Washington.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185C.040 and 2015 c 69 s 25 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) Six months after the first Washington homeless census, the  
20 department shall, in consultation with the interagency council on

1 homeless and the affordable housing advisory board, prepare and  
2 publish a ten-year homeless housing strategic plan which shall  
3 outline statewide goals and performance measures and shall be  
4 coordinated with the plan for homeless families with children  
5 required under RCW 43.63A.650. To guide local governments in  
6 preparation of their first local homeless housing plans due December  
7 31, 2005, the department shall issue by October 15, 2005, temporary  
8 guidelines consistent with this chapter and including the best  
9 available data on each community's homeless population. Local  
10 governments' ten-year homeless housing plans shall not be  
11 substantially inconsistent with the goals and program recommendations  
12 of the temporary guidelines and, when amended after 2005, the state  
13 strategic plan.

14 (2) Program outcomes and performance measures and goals shall be  
15 created by the department and reflected in the department's homeless  
16 housing strategic plan as well as interim goals against which state  
17 and local governments' performance may be measured, including:

18 (a) By the end of year one, completion of the first census as  
19 described in RCW 43.185C.030;

20 (b) By the end of each subsequent year, goals common to all local  
21 programs which are measurable and the achievement of which would move  
22 that community toward housing its homeless population; and

23 (c) By July 1, 2015, reduction of the homeless population  
24 statewide and in each county by fifty percent.

25 (3)(a) The department shall work in consultation with the  
26 interagency council on homelessness, the affordable housing advisory  
27 board, and the state advisory council on homelessness to develop  
28 performance measures that address the limitations of the annual  
29 point-in-time count on measuring the effectiveness of the document  
30 recording fee surcharge funds in supporting homeless programs. The  
31 department must report its findings and recommendations regarding the  
32 new performance measures to the appropriate committees of the  
33 legislature by December 1, 2017.

34 (b) The department must implement at least three performance  
35 metrics, in addition to the point-in-time measurement, that measure  
36 the impact of surcharge funding on reducing homelessness by July 1,  
37 2018.

38 (c) The joint legislative audit and review committee must review  
39 how the surcharge fees are expended to address homelessness,  
40 including a review of the related program performance measures and

1 targets. The joint legislative audit and review committee must report  
2 its review findings by December 1, 2022, and update the review every  
3 five years thereafter.

4 (4) The department shall develop a consistent statewide data  
5 gathering instrument to monitor the performance of cities and  
6 counties receiving grants in order to determine compliance with the  
7 terms and conditions set forth in the grant application or required  
8 by the department.

9 The department shall, in consultation with the interagency  
10 council on homelessness and the affordable housing advisory board,  
11 report biennially to the governor and the appropriate committees of  
12 the legislature an assessment of the state's performance in  
13 furthering the goals of the state ten-year homeless housing strategic  
14 plan and the performance of each participating local government in  
15 creating and executing a local homeless housing plan which meets the  
16 requirements of this chapter. To increase the effectiveness of the  
17 report, the department must develop a process to ensure consistent  
18 presentation, analysis, and explanation in the report, including  
19 year-to-year comparisons, highlights of program successes and  
20 challenges, and information that supports recommended strategy or  
21 operational changes. The annual report may include performance  
22 measures such as:

23 (a) The reduction in the number of homeless individuals and  
24 families from the initial count of homeless persons;

25 (b) The reduction in the number of unaccompanied homeless youth.  
26 "Unaccompanied homeless youth" has the same meaning as in RCW  
27 43.330.702;

28 (c) The number of new units available and affordable for homeless  
29 families by housing type;

30 (d) The number of homeless individuals identified who are not  
31 offered suitable housing within thirty days of their request or  
32 identification as homeless;

33 (e) The number of households at risk of losing housing who  
34 maintain it due to a preventive intervention;

35 (f) The transition time from homelessness to permanent housing;

36 (g) The cost per person housed at each level of the housing  
37 continuum;

38 (h) The ability to successfully collect data and report  
39 performance;

1 (i) The extent of collaboration and coordination among public  
2 bodies, as well as community stakeholders, and the level of community  
3 support and participation;

4 (j) The quality and safety of housing provided; and

5 (k) The effectiveness of outreach to homeless persons, and their  
6 satisfaction with the program.

7 ((+4)) (5) Based on the performance of local homeless housing  
8 programs in meeting their interim goals, on general population  
9 changes and on changes in the homeless population recorded in the  
10 annual census, the department may revise the performance measures and  
11 goals of the state homeless housing strategic plan, set goals for  
12 years following the initial ten-year period, and recommend changes in  
13 local governments' plans.

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