
SENATE BILL 5625

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, Darneille, Walsh, Hunt, O'Ban, Frockt, and Carlyle; by request of Department of Commerce

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing minors to consent to share their
2 personally identifying information in the Washington homeless client
3 management information system; and amending RCW 43.185C.180.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.185C.180 and 2011 c 239 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

7 (b) Data collection under this subsection shall be done in a
8 manner consistent with federally informed consent guidelines
9 regarding human research which, at a minimum, require that
10 individuals receive:

11 (i) Information about the expected duration of their
12 participation in the Washington homeless client management
13 information system;

14 (ii) An explanation of whom to contact for answers to pertinent
15 questions about the data collection and their rights regarding their
16 personal identifying information;

17 (iii) An explanation regarding whom to contact in the event of
18 injury to the individual related to the Washington homeless client
19 management information system;

20 (iv) A description of any reasonably foreseeable risks to the
21 homeless individual; and

22 (v) A statement describing the extent to which confidentiality of
23 records identifying the individual will be maintained.

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

29 (d) Any unaccompanied youth thirteen years of age or older may
30 give consent for the collection of his or her personally identifying
31 information under this section. "Unaccompanied" has the same
32 definition as in RCW 43.330.702.

33 (3) The Washington homeless client management information system
34 shall serve as an online information and referral system to enable
35 local governments and providers to connect homeless persons in the
36 database with available housing and other support services. Local
37 governments shall develop a capacity for continuous case management,
38 including independent living plans, when appropriate, to assist
39 homeless persons.

1 (4) The information in the Washington homeless client management
2 information system will also provide the department with the
3 information to consolidate and analyze data about the extent and
4 nature of homelessness in Washington state, giving emphasis to
5 information about the extent and nature of homelessness in Washington
6 state among families with children.

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

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

10 (b) Provide for consultation and collaboration with all relevant
11 state agencies including the department of social and health
12 services, experts, and community organizations involved in the
13 delivery of services to homeless persons; and

14 (c) Include related information held or gathered by other state
15 agencies.

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

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

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