
SENATE BILL 6554

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Miloscia

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a director of homelessness for
2 certain counties; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
6 otherwise.

7 (1) "County" means any county with a population of more than one
8 million five hundred thousand.

9 (2) "Department" means the department of commerce.

10 (3) "Director" means the director of homelessness created under
11 section 2 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall create the
13 position of director of homelessness to be appointed by the governor
14 every four years.

15 (2) The director shall serve as the department's and each county
16 executive's principal advisor on housing and housing-related issues
17 including, but not limited to, the distribution of document recording
18 fee surcharge funds under chapter 36.22 RCW, and replaces the
19 department's existing boards and task forces on housing and housing-
20 related issues within each county.

1 (3) The department, in conjunction with the Washington state
2 housing finance commission, the department of children, youth, and
3 families, and the department of social and health services, must
4 supply such information and assistance as are deemed necessary for
5 the director to carry out his or her duties under this section.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The director must work to create
7 greater levels of interagency coordination and to coordinate state
8 and local agency efforts addressing homelessness in every county.

9 (2) The director must seek to:

10 (a) Align homeless-related housing and supportive service
11 policies among state and local agencies;

12 (b) Identify ways in which providing housing with appropriate
13 services can contribute to cost savings for state and local agencies;

14 (c) Identify policies and actions that may contribute to
15 homelessness or interfere with its reduction;

16 (d) Review and improve strategies for discharge from state and
17 local institutions that contribute to homelessness;

18 (e) Recommend policies to either improve practices or align
19 resources, or both, including those policies through state and local
20 housing plans; and

21 (f) Ensure that the housing status of people served by state and
22 local programs is collected in consistent formats available for
23 analysis.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director must:

25 (1) Analyze those solutions and programs that could begin to
26 address each county's need for housing that is affordable for all
27 economic segments of the county, and special needs populations,
28 including, but not limited to, programs or proposals that provide
29 for:

30 (a) Financing for the acquisition, rehabilitation, preservation,
31 or construction of housing;

32 (b) Use of publicly owned land and buildings as sites for
33 affordable housing;

34 (c) Coordination of state initiatives with federal initiatives
35 and financing programs that are referenced in the Cranston-Gonzalez
36 national affordable housing act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12701 et seq.), as
37 amended, and development of an approved housing strategy as required

1 in the Cranston-Gonzalez national affordable housing act (42 U.S.C.
2 Sec. 12701 et seq.), as amended;

3 (d) Identification and removal, where appropriate and not
4 detrimental to the public health and safety, or environment, of state
5 and local regulatory barriers to the development and placement of
6 affordable housing;

7 (e) Stimulating public and private sector cooperation in the
8 development of affordable housing; and

9 (f) Development of solutions and programs affecting housing,
10 including the equitable geographic distribution of housing for all
11 economic segments within the county;

12 (2) Consider both homeownership and rental housing as viable
13 options for the provision of housing. The director must consider
14 various types of residential construction and innovative housing
15 options including, but not limited to, manufactured housing;

16 (3) Review, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding existing
17 and proposed housing programs and initiatives including, but not
18 limited to, tax policies, land use policies, and financing programs.
19 The director must provide recommendations to the director of commerce
20 and each county executive; and

21 (4) Prepare and submit to the director of commerce and each
22 county executive, by each December 1st, beginning December 1, 2018, a
23 report detailing his or her findings and make specific program,
24 legislative, and funding recommendations and any other
25 recommendations he or she deems appropriate.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Six months after the ensuing
27 Washington homeless census, the director, in consultation with the
28 interagency council on homelessness and the affordable housing
29 advisory board, must prepare and publish a ten-year homeless housing
30 strategic plan that must outline countywide goals and performance
31 measures.

32 (2) The director must work in consultation with the interagency
33 council on homelessness, the affordable housing advisory board, and
34 the state advisory council on homelessness to develop performance
35 measures that address the limitations of the annual point-in-time
36 count on measuring the effectiveness of the document recording fee
37 surcharge funds in supporting homeless programs. The director must
38 report his or her findings and recommendations regarding the new

1 performance measures to the director of commerce and each county
2 executive by December 1, 2018.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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