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**SENATE BILL 6196**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Braun, Brown, O'Ban, Wagoner, and Wilson, L.

Prefiled 01/09/20. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Housing Stability & Affordability.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a homelessness impact grant program  
2 to address security and sanitation impacts of homeless populations;  
3 amending RCW 36.22.179, 43.185C.060, and 43.185C.061; and adding a  
4 new section to chapter 43.185C RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, the department must administer a homelessness  
10 impact grant program to provide to city or county chambers of  
11 commerce or similar associations administering a business improvement  
12 area that is located in a county with an unsheltered homeless  
13 individuals count that exceeds five hundred according to the  
14 department's most recent point-in-time homeless census under RCW  
15 43.185C.030. Grant funds must be used to provide additional security  
16 or sanitation services for the protection of persons or property  
17 within the boundaries of the chamber of commerce or business  
18 improvement area.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.22.179 and 2019 c 136 s 2 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1) In addition to the surcharge authorized in RCW 36.22.178, and  
2 except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an additional  
3 surcharge of sixty-two dollars shall be charged by the county auditor  
4 for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other  
5 charge allowed by law. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this  
6 section, the funds collected pursuant to this section are to be  
7 distributed and used as follows:

8 (a) The auditor shall retain two percent for collection of the  
9 fee, and of the remainder shall remit sixty percent to the county to  
10 be deposited into a fund that must be used by the county and its  
11 cities and towns to accomplish the purposes of chapter 484, Laws of  
12 2005, six percent of which may be used by the county for the  
13 collection and local distribution of these funds and administrative  
14 costs related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for  
15 programs which directly accomplish the goals of the county's local  
16 homeless housing plan, except that for each city in the county which  
17 elects as authorized in RCW 43.185C.080 to operate its own local  
18 homeless housing program, a percentage of the surcharge assessed  
19 under this section equal to the percentage of the city's local  
20 portion of the real estate excise tax collected by the county shall  
21 be transmitted at least quarterly to the city treasurer, without any  
22 deduction for county administrative costs, for use by the city for  
23 program costs which directly contribute to the goals of the city's  
24 local homeless housing plan; of the funds received by the city, it  
25 may use six percent for administrative costs for its homeless housing  
26 program.

27 (b) The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state  
28 treasurer for deposit in the home security fund account to be used as  
29 follows:

30 (i) The department may use twelve and one-half percent of this  
31 amount for administration of the program established in RCW  
32 43.185C.020, including the costs of creating the statewide homeless  
33 housing strategic plan, measuring performance, providing technical  
34 assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless housing  
35 grant program.

36 (ii) The remaining eighty-seven and one-half percent of this  
37 amount must be used as follows:

38 (A) At least forty-five percent must be set aside for the use of  
39 private rental housing payments; and

40 (B) All remaining funds are to be used by the department to:

1 (I) Provide housing and shelter for homeless people including,  
2 but not limited to: Grants to operate, repair, and staff shelters;  
3 grants to operate transitional housing; partial payments for rental  
4 assistance; consolidated emergency assistance; overnight youth  
5 shelters; grants and vouchers designated for victims of human  
6 trafficking and their families; and emergency shelter assistance;  
7 (~~and~~)

8 (II) Fund the homeless housing grant program; and

9 (III) Fund the homelessness impact grant program created in  
10 section 1 of this act.

11 (2) A county issuing general obligation bonds pursuant to RCW  
12 36.67.010, to carry out the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this  
13 section, may provide that such bonds be made payable from any  
14 surcharge provided for in subsection (1)(a) of this section and may  
15 pledge such surcharges to the repayment of the bonds.

16 (3) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to (a)  
17 assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust,  
18 (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death, (c) any  
19 recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or  
20 additional surcharges under state law, (d) marriage licenses issued  
21 by the county auditor, or (e) documents recording a federal, state,  
22 county, or city lien or satisfaction of lien.

23 (4) Ten dollars of the surcharge imposed under subsection (1) of  
24 this section must be distributed to the counties to carry out the  
25 purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this section.

26 (5) For purposes of this section, "private rental housing" means  
27 housing owned by a private landlord and includes housing owned by a  
28 nonprofit housing entity.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.185C.060 and 2018 c 85 s 6 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) The home security fund account is created in the state  
32 treasury, subject to appropriation. The state's portion of the  
33 surcharge established in RCW 36.22.179 and 36.22.1791 must be  
34 deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
35 only for homeless housing programs as described in this chapter and  
36 the homelessness impact grant program created in section 1 of this  
37 act.

38 (2) The department must distinguish allotments from the account  
39 made to carry out the activities in RCW 43.330.167, 43.330.700

1 through 43.330.715, 43.330.911, 43.185C.010, 43.185C.250 through  
2 43.185C.320, and 36.22.179(1) (b) .

3 (3) The office of financial management must secure an independent  
4 expenditure review of state funds received under RCW 36.22.179(1) (b)  
5 on a biennial basis. The purpose of the review is to assess the  
6 consistency in achieving policy priorities within the private market  
7 rental housing segment for housing persons experiencing homelessness.  
8 The independent reviewer must notify the department and the office of  
9 financial management of its findings. The first biennial expenditure  
10 review, for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, is due February 1, 2020.  
11 Independent reviews conducted thereafter are due February 1st of each  
12 even-numbered year.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.185C.061 and 2015 c 69 s 27 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 Home security fund account funds appropriated to carry out the  
16 activities of RCW 43.330.700 through 43.330.715, 43.330.911,  
17 43.185C.010, 43.185C.250 through 43.185C.320, (~~and~~) 43.330.167, and  
18 section 1 of this act are not subject to the set aside under RCW  
19 36.22.179(1) (b) .

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