
HOUSE BILL 1238

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Chase, Dolan, Jacobsen, Caldier, Chambers, Sutherland, and Klippert

Read first time 01/18/21. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the help out Washington state
2 government program to allow Washingtonians to voluntarily contribute
3 to government expenditures; amending RCW 43.79.460; adding a new
4 section to chapter 43.08 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges that some
7 Washingtonians may believe that they should pay more for the
8 operation of state government. The legislature intends to establish
9 the help out Washington state government program to facilitate
10 voluntary contributions for the costs of government expenditures.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.08
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The help out Washington state government program is created
14 in the office of the state treasurer. Under the program, the state
15 treasurer may accept donations for the costs of state and local
16 government from individuals, businesses, and other entities, that
17 wish to make a voluntary monetary contribution for this purpose.

18 (2) All donations received under this program must be deposited
19 in the help out Washington state government account created in this
20 section.

1 (3) Monthly, the treasurer shall distribute these contributions
2 as follows:

3 (a) Where the donor indicates that the contribution is for a
4 particular agency of state government, the treasurer must deposit
5 that donation in the agency's subaccount of the incentive savings
6 account. Where the donor indicates that the donation is for a
7 particular activity of that agency, the treasurer must communicate
8 that condition to the agency, and the agency may spend that funding
9 only for that purpose, if it otherwise has legal or other statutory
10 authority to do so.

11 (b) Where the donor does not indicate whether the contribution is
12 for a particular activity of the agency, the treasurer must deposit
13 the donation in the various agencies' subaccounts of the incentive
14 savings account in proportion to the agencies' respective proportion
15 of state general fund appropriations in the most recent state
16 operating budget.

17 (c) Where the donor indicates that the contribution is for a
18 particular political subdivision, the treasurer must distribute the
19 funding to the appropriate county treasurer or fiscal agent for the
20 particular political subdivision. Where the donor indicates that the
21 contribution is for a particular administrative unit of the political
22 subdivision, including but not limited to a particular school within
23 a school district, then the treasurer must communicate that condition
24 to the county treasurer or fiscal agent.

25 (d) Nothing in this section authorizes a state agency or
26 political subdivision to make expenditures for a purpose for which it
27 does not otherwise have statutory or other legal authority.

28 (4) The help out Washington state government account is created
29 in the custody of the state treasurer. Only the state treasurer or
30 the treasurer's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
31 Expenditures from the account may be used only for distributions
32 authorized under this section. An appropriation is not required for
33 expenditures.

34 (5) The office of the state treasurer shall post on its website a
35 monthly report on contributions to the help out Washington state
36 government account, corresponding expenditures from the respective
37 agencies' subaccounts of the incentive savings account, and funding
38 provided to local governments.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.79.460 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 971 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The savings incentive account is created in the custody of
4 the state treasurer. The account shall consist of all moneys
5 appropriated to the account by the legislature. The account is
6 subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
7 appropriation is required for expenditures from the account.

8 (2) Within the savings incentive account, the state treasurer may
9 create subaccounts to be credited with incentive savings attributable
10 to individual state agencies, as determined by the office of
11 financial management in consultation with the legislative fiscal
12 committees. Moneys deposited in the subaccounts may be expended only
13 on the authorization of the agency's executive head or designee and
14 only for the purpose of one-time expenditures to improve the quality,
15 efficiency, and effectiveness of services to customers of the state,
16 such as one-time expenditures for employee training, employee
17 incentives, technology improvements, new work processes, or
18 performance measurement. Funds may not be expended from the account
19 to establish new programs or services, expand existing programs or
20 services, or incur ongoing costs that would require future
21 expenditures. Moneys distributed to an agency's subaccount from the
22 help out Washington state government account must be expended under
23 the conditions of this section, except that if those moneys were
24 contributed for a particular purpose the agency may spend those
25 moneys for that purpose if it otherwise has statutory or other legal
26 authority to do so.

27 (3) For purposes of this section, "incentive savings" means state
28 general fund appropriations that are unspent as of June 30th of a
29 fiscal year, excluding any amounts included in across-the-board
30 reductions under RCW 43.88.110 and excluding unspent appropriations
31 for:

32 (a) Caseload and enrollment in entitlement programs, except to
33 the extent that an agency has clearly demonstrated that efficiencies
34 have been achieved in the administration of the entitlement program.
35 "Entitlement program," as used in this section, includes programs for
36 which specific sums of money are appropriated for pass-through to
37 third parties or other entities;

38 (b) Enrollments in state institutions of higher education;

39 (c) Except for fiscal year 2011, a specific amount contained in a
40 condition or limitation to an appropriation in the biennial

1 appropriations act, if the agency did not achieve the specific
2 purpose or objective of the condition or limitation;

3 (d) Debt service on state obligations; and

4 (e) State retirement system obligations.

5 (4) The office of financial management, after consulting with the
6 legislative fiscal committees, shall report the amount of savings
7 incentives achieved.

8 ~~(5) ((For fiscal year 2010, the legislature may transfer from the
9 savings incentive account to the state general fund such amounts as
10 reflect the fund balance of the account attributable to unspent state
11 general fund appropriations for fiscal year 2009. For fiscal year
12 2011, the legislature may transfer from the savings incentive account
13 to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the fund balance of
14 the account attributable to unspent state general fund appropriations
15 for fiscal year 2010. For fiscal year 2011, the legislature may
16 transfer from the savings incentive account to the state general fund
17 eight million dollars or as much as reflects the fund balance of the
18 account attributable to unspent agency credits prior to fiscal year
19 2009. Credits for legislative and judicial agencies are not included
20 in this action, with the exception and upon consent of the supreme
21 court, court of appeals, office of public defense, and office of
22 civil legal aid.~~

23 ~~(6) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the legislature may transfer
24 from the savings incentive account to the state general fund such
25 amounts as reflect the fund balance of the account attributable to
26 unspent general fund appropriations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012.~~

27 ~~(7) For fiscal year 2016, the legislature may transfer from the
28 savings incentive account to the state general fund such amounts as
29 reflect the fund balance of the account attributable to unspent
30 agency credit. Credits for legislative and judicial agencies are not
31 included in this action.~~

32 ~~(8) For the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, the joint legislative
33 audit and review committee and the legislative evaluation and
34 accountability program committee may use moneys deposited in their
35 subaccounts for one-time costs related to their office relocation to
36 the 1063 building.)~~ If an agency receives a voluntary contribution
37 distributed from the help out Washington state government account, it
38 must report to the treasurer on how it expended the contribution.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the
2 help out Washington state government act.

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