
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5867

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Housing & Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Fortunato and Kuderer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to compassionate and effective strategies to
2 address the homelessness crisis; adding a new section to chapter
3 36.01 RCW; 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 it is
6 imperative that cities and counties of a certain size have the means
7 to provide shelter to the homeless population. The provision of
8 mental health and substance abuse treatment options is an essential
9 service the shelter model should provide as well as a safe
10 environment for the residents, staff, and counselors. Whereas the
11 state has allocated money for housing assistance in the housing trust
12 fund, the legislature also finds that the operations and services of
13 such shelters should be sufficiently funded from the state's
14 operating budget and any local funds appropriated for these purposes.
15 By establishing such shelters, local governments can establish tools
16 to support people experiencing homelessness in confronting mental
17 health and substance abuse problems as well as provide safe and
18 secure spaces for sleeping.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) (a) Every county and each city with a population over 50,000
2 must establish and operate at least one emergency overnight shelter
3 site in its respective jurisdiction. Counties and each eligible city
4 within the county's geographic boundary must coordinate to ensure
5 that there are enough cumulative shelter beds to accommodate, at a
6 minimum, the sheltered and unsheltered portions of the county's most
7 recent point-in-time homeless count.

8 (b) Counties and each eligible city must make available
9 employment, mental health, and drug counseling services at each
10 shelter location with funding made available from the state operating
11 budget or local funds as appropriated for these purposes. Each
12 shelter must provide for a safe environment for shelter residents
13 during shelter operating hours.

14 (2) Any county or city establishing a shelter under this section
15 may utilize assistance under the housing trust fund pursuant to RCW
16 43.185.050 to acquire or build shelter. Any application to acquire or
17 build noncongregate shelter in accordance with this section must
18 receive priority over applications for other types of shelter.

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