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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1766**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Griffey, Davis, Senn, Dent, Callan, and Cheney)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a hope card program; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 7.105 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Washington state has been a national leader in adopting legal  
6 protections to prevent and respond to abuse, violence, harassment,  
7 stalking, neglect, and other threatening behaviors, through the  
8 enactment of different types of civil protection orders, which are  
9 intended to provide an efficient means to obtain protection against  
10 perpetrators of these harms. Protection orders are essential tools  
11 that can increase safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual  
12 assault, stalking, abuse of vulnerable adults, and unlawful  
13 harassment, by empowering them to obtain immediate protection for  
14 themselves without having to rely on the criminal legal system. From  
15 2018 through 2021, more than 83,000 full protection order cases were  
16 filed in Washington courts, with domestic violence protection order  
17 cases making up nearly 58 percent of that total.

18 (2) Washingtonians who receive protection orders, however, are  
19 often confronted by a difficult choice—always carry a paper copy of  
20 the order with them, an inconvenient option that could result in the  
21 document being damaged or lost, or risk not having access to proper

1 documentation should assistance from law enforcement or emergency  
2 services become necessary.

3 (3) Numerous other states including Oregon, Idaho, and Montana  
4 have successfully implemented a solution by establishing hope card  
5 programs. Hope cards are durable, laminated cards, similar in  
6 construction to a driver's license, that contain the vital  
7 information about a protection order that first responders need to  
8 quickly verify its existence.

9 (4) Establishing a hope card program in Washington will not only  
10 relieve protection order recipients of an unnecessary source of  
11 frustration and stress, but also increase the effectiveness of these  
12 crucial sources of safety and security for thousands of  
13 Washingtonians.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.105  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The administrative office of the courts shall develop a  
17 program for the issuance of protection order hope cards by superior  
18 and district courts. The administrative office of the courts shall  
19 develop the program in collaboration with the Washington state  
20 superior court judges' association, the Washington state district and  
21 municipal court judges' association, the Washington state association  
22 of county clerks, association of Washington superior court  
23 administrators, and district and municipal court management  
24 association, and shall make reasonably feasible efforts to solicit  
25 and incorporate input from appropriate stakeholder groups, including  
26 representatives from victim advocacy groups, law enforcement  
27 agencies, and the department of licensing.

28 (2) A hope card must be a durable, laminated or plastic card  
29 similar in size and material to a Washington driver's license and  
30 must contain, without limitations, the following:

31 (a) The restrained person's name, date of birth, sex, race, eye  
32 color, hair color, height, weight, and other distinguishing features;

33 (b) The protected person's name and date of birth and the names  
34 and dates of birth of any minor children protected under the order;  
35 and

36 (c) Information about the protection order including, but not  
37 limited to, the issuing court, the case number, the date of issuance  
38 and date of expiration of the order, and the relevant details of the  
39 order, including any locations from which the person is restrained.

1           (3) Commencing on July 1, 2024, a person who has been issued a  
2 valid full protection order may request a hope card from the issuing  
3 court at the time the order is entered or at any time prior to the  
4 expiration of the order.

5           (4) A person requesting a hope card may not be charged a fee for  
6 the issuance of an original and one duplicate hope card.

7           (5) For the purposes of this section, "full protection order"  
8 means a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault  
9 protection order, a stalking protection order, a vulnerable adult  
10 protection order, or an antiharassment protection order, as defined  
11 in this chapter.

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