
HOUSE BILL 1766

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Griffey, Davis, Senn, Dent, Callan, and Cheney

Read first time 02/06/23. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

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, and district court administrators, and shall make
23 reasonably feasible efforts to solicit and incorporate input from
24 appropriate stakeholder groups, including representatives from victim
25 advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and the department of
26 licensing.

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

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

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

35 (c) Information about the protection order including, but not
36 limited to, the issuing court, the case number, the date of issuance
37 and date of expiration of the order, and the relevant details of the
38 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.

--- END ---