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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5943**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Gildon, Boehnke, Hasegawa, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/24/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to conducting a feasibility study regarding a  
2 resource data tool to connect Washington residents to services and  
3 resources; adding new sections to chapter 43.20A RCW; and providing  
4 an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington  
7 residents could benefit from having a quick and seamless digital way  
8 to connect to services and that state agencies should explore  
9 opportunities to provide such services in a way that builds off of  
10 the work of their peers by maximizing the state's investments and  
11 reducing the duplication of staff efforts in the provision of  
12 services. The legislature finds that the advisory group created in  
13 this act will have the expertise and experience to bring together  
14 ideas for developing a resource data tool, which includes a mobile  
15 application and web portal, that may assist Washington residents in  
16 gaining access to a variety of existing services, such as social,  
17 behavioral health, and housing services. While many providers, both  
18 public and private, currently offer these types of services in  
19 Washington, the residents of our state do not always have an easy way  
20 to learn more about, and use, those services. It is the intent of the  
21 legislature to conduct a feasibility study for developing a resource

1 data tool that will easily connect Washingtonians to the services  
2 they may need and that will ensure the services are provided in an  
3 efficient, cost-effective manner.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
5 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall conduct  
6 a feasibility study regarding a resource data tool for the purpose of  
7 digitally connecting members of the public to state services. The  
8 feasibility study must be conducted in collaboration with the  
9 advisory group created in section 3 of this act.

10 (2) The feasibility study shall include recommendations for a  
11 mobile application for the purpose of assisting users in accessing  
12 state and private resources and services.

13 (3) Among other relevant topics, the feasibility study shall  
14 examine what other digital public resources exist to prevent  
15 potential redundancy of programs and to promote administrative  
16 efficiency. The feasibility study shall also consider language  
17 access, alternative communications options, and equitable access for  
18 individuals living with disabilities or limited access to internet  
19 services.

20 (4) The feasibility study shall be submitted, in compliance with  
21 RCW 43.01.036, to the governor and appropriate committees of the  
22 legislature by December 1, 2024.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
24 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall convene  
25 an advisory group for providing feedback and consultative advice  
26 regarding the feasibility study established by this act. The advisory  
27 group shall be composed of experts, interested parties, individuals  
28 with lived experience receiving public benefits, organizations who  
29 work in the space of system referral and resource navigation, and  
30 other relevant stakeholders. The purpose of the advisory group  
31 created in this section is to inform the feasibility study, which  
32 shall include a plan and framework for launching the resource data  
33 tool, a web portal, and a mobile application. The advisory group  
34 created in this section is dissolved upon the expiration of this  
35 section.

36 (2) This section expires December 1, 2024.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each  
2    added to chapter 43.20A RCW.

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