

---

HOUSE BILL 1604

---

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Brekke, Winsley, Leonard, Riley, Anderson, H. Myers, R. Johnson, Valle, Scott, Belcher, Phillips, Sheldon and Rasmussen.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment and operation of safe houses  
2 for runaway and street youth; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW;  
3 creating a new section; making an appropriation; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that runaway  
7 and street youth have essential needs that must be addressed if they  
8 are to be successfully reunited with their families or transitioned  
9 into independent living. The legislature further finds that one of  
10 these essential needs is for safe housing.

11 (2) It is the intent of sections 2 and 3 of this act to provide for  
12 the establishment and operation of safe houses in several Washington  
13 cities that will offer a safe and sober environment for troubled youth,  
14 in which those youths can be housed safely and obtain nonjudgmental  
15 support and assistance.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        The department shall award grants for the establishment and  
4 operation of safe houses for runaway and street youth up to eighteen  
5 years of age. Applications for safe house funding shall include at  
6 least the following assurances:

7            (1) The anonymity of youth using the safe house will be protected;

8            (2) The safe house will be drug and alcohol free at all times;

9            (3) The average length of stay for youth using the safe house will  
10 be fourteen days;

11           (4) Counseling will be available at the safe house in a manner that  
12 ensures substantial contact with staff. Such services may be provided  
13 through contracts with existing youth service providers;

14           (5) Safe house staff will be encouraged to assist youth using the  
15 house to reconcile with their families, or if reconciliation is not  
16 appropriate, to develop more permanent living arrangements;

17           (6) Referrals to other needed services will be made through written  
18 interagency agreements with community-based youth service providers;

19           (7) Safe house staff will not accept referrals from the department  
20 for placement of youths who are dependents in the child protective  
21 services or child welfare service systems;

22           (8) The safe house will not have more than ten beds; and

23           (9) The safe house will maintain compliance with applicable  
24 licensing and state and local building and safety codes.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27           (1) Grants for the establishment and operation of safe houses shall  
28 be made competitively based upon compliance with the assurances  
29 provided in section 2 of this act and information provided in

1 applications for funding. Preference in awarding grants shall be given  
2 to existing youth serving agencies.

3 (2) Grants shall be made for the establishment and operation of a  
4 minimum of five safe houses located in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane,  
5 Yakima, and Vancouver. To the extent funding is available, grants may  
6 be made for five additional safe houses.

7 (3) Twenty-five percent of the funding for safe houses under this  
8 section and section 2 of this act shall be community matching funds  
9 provided by private or public entities in the communities requesting  
10 funding. Contributions of materials, supplies, physical facilities, or  
11 volunteer time may be considered as all or part of the funding provided  
12 by the communities.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of three million three hundred  
14 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
15 appropriated from the general fund to the department of social and  
16 health services, for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, for grants for  
17 the establishment and operation of safe houses at a cost of  
18 approximately three thousand dollars per bed per month.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
21 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
22 effect immediately.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its  
24 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
25 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
26 persons or circumstances is not affected.