
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2827

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Roberts, Kagi, Dickerson, Appleton, Darneille, Pedersen, Walsh, O'Brien, Sullivan, and Goodman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the department of community, trade,
2 and economic development's housing pilot program; and amending RCW
3 43.185C.200.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.185C.200 and 2007 c 483 s 604 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department of community, trade, and economic development
8 shall establish a pilot program to provide grants to eligible
9 organizations, as described in RCW 43.185.060, to provide transitional
10 housing assistance to offenders who are reentering the community and
11 are in need of housing.

12 (2)(a) Initially, there shall be a minimum of two pilot programs
13 established in two counties. The pilot programs shall be selected
14 through a request for proposal process and in consultation with the
15 department of corrections. The department shall select the pilot sites
16 by January 1, 2008.

17 (b) After the effective date of this section, the department shall,
18 within funds appropriated for purposes of this act, expand the pilot
19 program to include sites in other counties.

1 (3) The pilot program shall:
2 (a) ~~((Be operated in collaboration with the community justice
3 center existing in the location of the pilot site;
4 (b)))~~ Offer transitional supportive housing that includes
5 individual support and mentoring available on an ongoing basis, life
6 skills training, and close working relationships with community justice
7 centers or community transition coordination networks, if any, and
8 community corrections officers. Supportive housing services can be
9 provided directly by the housing operator, or in partnership with
10 community-based organizations;
11 ~~((e))~~ (b) In providing assistance, give priority to offenders who
12 are designated as high risk or high needs as well as those determined
13 not to have a viable release plan by the department of corrections;
14 ~~((d))~~ (c) Optimize available funding by utilizing cost-effective
15 community-based shared housing arrangements or other noninstitutional
16 living arrangements; and
17 ~~((e))~~ (d) Provide housing assistance for a period of time not to
18 exceed twelve months for a participating offender.
19 (4) ~~((The department may also use up to twenty percent of the
20 funding appropriated in the operating budget for this section to
21 support the development of additional supportive housing resources for
22 offenders who are reentering the community.
23 (5)))~~ The department shall:
24 (a) Collaborate with the department of corrections in developing
25 criteria to determine who will qualify for housing assistance; and
26 (b) Gather data, and report to the legislature by November 1, 2008,
27 on the number of offenders seeking housing, the number of offenders
28 eligible for housing, the number of offenders who receive the housing,
29 and the number of offenders who commit new crimes while residing in the
30 housing to the extent information is available.
31 ~~((6))~~ (5) The department of corrections shall collaborate with
32 organizations receiving grant funds to:
33 (a) Help identify appropriate housing solutions in the community
34 for offenders;
35 (b) Where possible, facilitate an offender's application for
36 housing prior to discharge;
37 (c) Identify enhancements to training provided to offenders prior

1 to discharge that may assist an offender in effectively transitioning
2 to the community;

3 (d) Maintain communication between the organization receiving grant
4 funds, the housing provider, and corrections staff supervising the
5 offender; and

6 (e) Assist the offender in accessing resources and services
7 available through the department of corrections and a community justice
8 center or community transition coordination network in the same county
9 as the location of the pilot site, if any.

10 ((+7)) (6) The state, department of community, trade, and economic
11 development, department of corrections, local governments, local
12 housing authorities, eligible organizations as described in RCW
13 43.185.060, and their employees are not liable for civil damages
14 arising from the criminal conduct of an offender solely due to the
15 placement of an offender in housing provided under this section or the
16 provision of housing assistance.

17 ((+8)) (7) Nothing in this section allows placement of an offender
18 into housing without an analysis of the risk the offender may pose to
19 that particular community or other residents.

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