
HOUSE BILL 3156

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Darneille, Haler, Dickerson, Morrell, Pettigrew and Simpson

Read first time 01/23/2006. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program to assist in asset
2 building for low-income persons; adding new sections to chapter 43.63A
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that one in four
6 families is asset poor meaning they lack the financial resources to
7 sustain their family for a period of three months at the federal
8 poverty level. The legislature finds that there is a need to empower
9 low-income wage earners by providing tools that allow them to better
10 control, manage, and increase their financial resources. Momentum is
11 growing within the state to enhance a community-wide response to
12 poverty that combines efforts of community-based, faith-based,
13 governmental, job training, health care, and social service agencies.
14 The legislature is committed to supporting the collaboration efforts of
15 local communities to help lower-income families achieve greater
16 prosperity.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) By December 1, 2006, the department of community, trade, and
2 economic development must establish a pilot program to assist low-
3 income families accumulate assets. The pilot program will use the
4 existing community action agencies established under RCW 43.63A.115.
5 The community action agencies must facilitate bringing together
6 community partners to determine the asset building programs to initiate
7 within the community.

8 (2) The department must select the pilot sites through a request
9 for proposals process which must begin by July 31, 2006. The pilot
10 program must consist of four sites with at least one of the pilot sites
11 located in eastern Washington.

12 (3) Any county, or group of counties, in which a community action
13 agency as established in RCW 43.63A.115 is located may submit a
14 proposal to be selected as a pilot site. To be considered for a pilot
15 site, the proposal must demonstrate how the site will meet the
16 following criteria. The proposal must:

17 (a) Identify the local agency that will be the lead agency for the
18 pilot program;

19 (b) Describe how the lead agency will work with community partners
20 to implement the pilot program activities described in this section.
21 The proposal must specifically identify the community partners with
22 whom the community action agency will be collaborating and the role of
23 the partners;

24 (c) Identify the areas of potential need based upon input from the
25 community partners. Areas of potential need may include financial
26 literacy, assistance with federal income tax preparation and the use of
27 tax credits, the use of individual development accounts, and other
28 asset-building strategies; and

29 (d) Identify the resources within the community that might support
30 training for the implementation of the selected best practices chosen
31 to address the needs identified by the community.

32 (4) The department must report to the legislature by December 1,
33 2007, on the progress of the implementation of the pilot program
34 including the request for proposals process, the response from the
35 counties to the request for proposal, the status of the program, and
36 any implementation issues that arose in initiating the pilot program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 To the extent funding is appropriated, the department of community,
4 trade, and economic development must establish a program to create an
5 outreach campaign to increase the number of eligible families who claim
6 the federal earned income tax credit. The department may work
7 collaboratively with other state agencies, private and nonprofit
8 agencies, local communities, and others with expertise that might
9 assist the department in implementing the program.

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