

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5160**

67th Legislature  
2021 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2021  
Yeas 27 Nays 22

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 8, 2021  
Yeas 72 Nays 26

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5160** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5160

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **67th Legislature**                      **2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kuderer, Liiias, Conway, Das, Lovelett, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/21.

1            AN ACT Relating to addressing landlord-tenant relations by  
2 providing certain tenant protections during the public health  
3 emergency, providing for legal representation in eviction cases,  
4 establishing an eviction resolution pilot program for nonpayment of  
5 rent cases, and authorizing landlord access to certain rental  
6 assistance programs; amending RCW 43.31.615, 59.18.057, 59.18.365,  
7 59.12.040, 59.20.040, and 59.18.410; reenacting and amending RCW  
8 43.31.605 and 59.18.230; adding new sections to chapter 59.18 RCW;  
9 adding a new section to chapter 2.53 RCW; adding a new section to  
10 chapter 43.185C RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 59.18.375;  
11 prescribing penalties; making an appropriation; providing expiration  
12 dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

14            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that the COVID-19  
15 pandemic is causing a sustained global economic slowdown, and an  
16 economic downturn throughout Washington state with unprecedented  
17 numbers of layoffs and reduced work hours for a significant  
18 percentage of our workforce. Many of the state's workforce has been  
19 impacted by these layoffs and substantially reduced work hours and  
20 have suffered economic hardship, disproportionately affecting low and  
21 moderate-income workers resulting in lost wages and the inability to

1 pay for basic household expenses, including rent. Hundreds of  
2 thousands of tenants in Washington are unable to consistently pay  
3 their rent, reflecting the continued financial precariousness of many  
4 renters in the state. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, nonpayment of  
5 rent was the leading cause of evictions within the state. Because the  
6 COVID-19 pandemic has led to an inability for tenants to consistently  
7 pay rent, the likelihood of evictions has increased, as well as life,  
8 health, and safety risks to a significant percentage of the state's  
9 tenants. As a result, the governor has issued a temporary moratorium  
10 on evictions as of March 2020, with multiple extensions and other  
11 related actions, to reduce housing instability and enable tenants to  
12 stay in their homes.

13 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature with this act to  
14 increase tenant protections during the public health emergency,  
15 provide legal representation for qualifying tenants in eviction  
16 cases, establish an eviction resolution pilot program to address  
17 nonpayment of rent eviction cases before any court filing, and ensure  
18 tenants and landlords have adequate opportunities to access state and  
19 local rental assistance programs to reimburse landlords for unpaid  
20 rent and preserve tenancies.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 59.18  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The definitions in this section apply to sections 3 and 4 of this  
24 act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

25 (1) "Dwelling unit" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
26 59.18.030, and includes a manufactured/mobile home or a mobile home  
27 lot as defined in RCW 59.20.030.

28 (2) "Eviction moratorium" refers to the governor of the state of  
29 Washington's proclamation 20-19.6, proclaiming a moratorium on  
30 certain evictions for all counties throughout Washington state on  
31 March 18, 2021.

32 (3) "Landlord" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 59.18.030  
33 and 59.20.030.

34 (4) "Prospective landlord" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
35 59.18.030.

36 (5) "Public health emergency" refers to the governor of the state  
37 of Washington's proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a state of emergency  
38 for all counties throughout Washington state on February 29, 2020,  
39 and any subsequent orders extending or amending such proclamation due

1 to COVID-19 until the proclamation expires or is terminated by the  
2 governor of the state of Washington.

3 (6) "Rent" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 59.18.030.

4 (7) "Tenant" refers to any individual renting a dwelling unit or  
5 lot primarily for living purposes, including any individual with a  
6 tenancy subject to this chapter or chapter 59.20 RCW or any  
7 individual residing in transient lodging, such as a hotel or motel or  
8 camping area as their primary dwelling, for 30 days or more prior to  
9 March 1, 2020. "Tenant" does not include any individual residing in a  
10 hotel or motel or camping area as their primary dwelling for more  
11 than 30 days after March 1, 2020, if the hotel or motel or camping  
12 area has provided the individual with a seven-day eviction notice,  
13 which must include the following language: "For no-cost legal  
14 assistance, please call 2-1-1 or the Northwest Justice Project CLEAR  
15 Hotline outside King County (888) 201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 a.m.  
16 - 12:15 p.m., or (888) 387-7111 for seniors (age 60 and over). You  
17 may find additional resource information at [http://](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)  
18 [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)." "Tenant" also does not include occupants  
19 of homeless mitigation sites or a person entering onto land without  
20 permission of the landowner or lessor. For purposes of this  
21 subsection, any local government provision of solid waste or hygiene  
22 services to unsanctioned encampments does not constitute permission  
23 to occupy land.

## 24 **TENANT PROTECTIONS**

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 59.18  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) A landlord may not charge or impose any late fees or other  
28 charges against any tenant for the nonpayment of rent that became due  
29 between March 1, 2020, and six months following the expiration of the  
30 eviction moratorium.

31 (2) For rent that accrued between March 1, 2020, and the six  
32 months following the expiration of the eviction moratorium expiration  
33 date:

34 (a) A landlord may not report to a prospective landlord:

35 (i) A tenant's nonpayment of rent that accrued between March 1,  
36 2020, and the six months following the expiration of the eviction  
37 moratorium; or

1 (ii) An unlawful detainer action pursuant to RCW 59.12.030(3)  
2 that resulted from a tenant's nonpayment of rent between March 1,  
3 2020, and the six months following the expiration of the eviction  
4 moratorium.

5 (b) A prospective landlord may not take an adverse action based  
6 on a prospective tenant's nonpayment of rent that occurred between  
7 March 1, 2020, and the six months following the expiration of the  
8 eviction moratorium.

9 (3)(a) A landlord or prospective landlord may not deny,  
10 discourage application for, or otherwise make unavailable any rental  
11 dwelling unit based on a tenant's or prospective tenant's medical  
12 history including, but not limited to, the tenant's or prospective  
13 tenant's prior or current exposure or infection to the COVID-19  
14 virus.

15 (b) A landlord or prospective landlord may not inquire about,  
16 consider, or require disclosure of a tenant's or prospective tenant's  
17 medical records or history, unless such disclosure is necessary to  
18 evaluate a reasonable accommodation request or reasonable  
19 modification request under RCW 49.60.222.

20 (4) A landlord or prospective landlord in violation of this  
21 section is liable in a civil action for up to two and one-half times  
22 the monthly rent of the real property at issue, as well as court  
23 costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. A court must impose this  
24 penalty in an amount necessary to deter future violations, payable to  
25 the tenant bringing the action.

#### 26 **REPAYMENT PLANS**

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 59.18  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The eviction moratorium instituted by the governor of the  
30 state of Washington's proclamation 20-19.6 shall end on June 30,  
31 2021.

32 (2) If a tenant has remaining unpaid rent that accrued between  
33 March 1, 2020, and six months following the expiration of the  
34 eviction moratorium or the end of the public health emergency,  
35 whichever is greater, the landlord must offer the tenant a reasonable  
36 schedule for repayment of the unpaid rent that does not exceed  
37 monthly payments equal to one-third of the monthly rental charges  
38 during the period of accrued debt. If a tenant fails to accept the

1 terms of a reasonable repayment plan within 14 days of the landlord's  
2 offer, the landlord may proceed with an unlawful detainer action as  
3 set forth in RCW 59.12.030(3) but subject to any requirements under  
4 the eviction resolution pilot program established under section 7 of  
5 this act. If the tenant defaults on any rent owed under a repayment  
6 plan, the landlord may apply for reimbursement from the landlord  
7 mitigation program as authorized under RCW 43.31.605(1)(d) or proceed  
8 with an unlawful detainer action as set forth in RCW 59.12.030(3) but  
9 subject to any requirements under the eviction resolution pilot  
10 program established under section 7 of this act. The court must  
11 consider the tenant's circumstances, including decreased income or  
12 increased expenses due to COVID-19, and the repayment plan terms  
13 offered during any unlawful detainer proceeding.

14 (3) Any repayment plan entered into under this section must:

15 (a) Not require payment until 30 days after the repayment plan is  
16 offered to the tenant;

17 (b) Cover rent only and not any late fees, attorneys' fees, or  
18 any other fees and charges;

19 (c) Allow for payments from any source of income as defined in  
20 RCW 59.18.255(5) or from pledges by nonprofit organizations,  
21 churches, religious institutions, or governmental entities; and

22 (d) Not include provisions or be conditioned on: The tenant's  
23 compliance with the rental agreement, payment of attorneys' fees,  
24 court costs, or other costs related to litigation if the tenant  
25 defaults on the rental agreement; a requirement that the tenant apply  
26 for governmental benefits or provide proof of receipt of governmental  
27 benefits; or the tenant's waiver of any rights to a notice under RCW  
28 59.12.030 or related provisions before a writ of restitution is  
29 issued.

30 (4) It is a defense to an eviction under RCW 59.12.030(3) that a  
31 landlord did not offer a repayment plan in conformity with this  
32 section.

33 (5) To the extent available funds exist for rental assistance  
34 from a federal, state, local, private, or nonprofit program, the  
35 tenant or landlord may continue to seek rental assistance to reduce  
36 and/or eliminate the unpaid rent balance.

37 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.31.605 and 2020 c 315 s 8 and 2020 c 169 s 2 are  
38 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1 (1) (a) Subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the  
2 landlord mitigation program is created and administered by the  
3 department. The department shall have such rule-making authority as  
4 the department deems necessary to administer the program.

5 (b) The following types of claims related to landlord mitigation  
6 for renting private market rental units to low-income tenants using a  
7 housing subsidy program are eligible for reimbursement from the  
8 landlord mitigation program account:

9 (i) Up to one thousand dollars for improvements identified in RCW  
10 59.18.255(1) (a). In order to be eligible for reimbursement under this  
11 subsection (1) (b) (i), the landlord must pay for the first five  
12 hundred dollars for improvements, and rent to the tenant whose  
13 housing subsidy program was conditioned on the real property passing  
14 inspection. Reimbursement under this subsection (1) (b) (i) may also  
15 include up to fourteen days of lost rental income from the date of  
16 offer of housing to the applicant whose housing subsidy program was  
17 conditioned on the real property passing inspection until move in by  
18 that applicant;

19 (ii) Reimbursement for damages as reflected in a judgment  
20 obtained against the tenant through either an unlawful detainer  
21 proceeding, or through a civil action in a court of competent  
22 jurisdiction after a hearing;

23 (iii) Reimbursement for damages established pursuant to  
24 subsection (2) of this section; and

25 (iv) Reimbursement for unpaid rent and unpaid utilities, provided  
26 that the landlord can evidence it to the department's satisfaction.

27 (c) Claims related to landlord mitigation for an unpaid judgment  
28 for rent, unpaid judgments resulting from the tenant's failure to  
29 comply with an installment payment agreement identified in RCW  
30 59.18.610, late fees, attorneys' fees, and costs after a court order  
31 pursuant to RCW 59.18.410(3), including any unpaid portion of the  
32 judgment after the tenant defaults on the payment plan pursuant to  
33 RCW 59.18.410(3) (c), are eligible for reimbursement from the landlord  
34 mitigation program account and are exempt from any postjudgment  
35 interest required under RCW 4.56.110. Any claim for reimbursement  
36 made pursuant to RCW 59.18.410(3) (e) (ii) must be accompanied by a  
37 court order staying the writ of restitution pursuant to RCW  
38 59.18.410(3). Any claim for reimbursement under this subsection  
39 (1) (c) is not an entitlement.

1 (i) The department shall provide for a form on its website for  
2 tenants and landlords to apply for reimbursement funds for the  
3 landlord pursuant to this subsection (1)(c).

4 (ii) The form must include: (A) Space for the landlord and tenant  
5 to provide names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, date of birth for  
6 the tenant, and any other identifying information necessary for the  
7 department to process payment; (B) the landlord's statewide vendor  
8 identification number and how to obtain one; (C) name and address to  
9 whom payment must be made; (D) the amount of the judgment with  
10 instructions to include any other supporting documentation the  
11 department may need to process payment; (E) instructions for how the  
12 tenant is to reimburse the department under (c)(iii) of this  
13 subsection; (F) a description of the consequences if the tenant does  
14 not reimburse the department as provided in this subsection (1)(c);  
15 (G) a signature line for the landlord and tenant to confirm that they  
16 have read and understood the contents of the form and program; and  
17 (H) any other information necessary for the operation of the program.  
18 If the tenant has not signed the form after the landlord has made  
19 good faith efforts to obtain the tenant's signature, the landlord may  
20 solely submit the form but must attest to the amount of money owed  
21 and sign the form under penalty of perjury.

22 (iii) When a landlord has been reimbursed pursuant to this  
23 subsection (1)(c), the tenant for whom payment was made shall  
24 reimburse the department by depositing the amount disbursed from the  
25 landlord mitigation program account into the court registry of the  
26 superior court in which the judgment was entered. The tenant or other  
27 interested party may seek an ex parte order of the court under the  
28 unlawful detainer action to order such funds to be disbursed by the  
29 court. Upon entry of the order, the court clerk shall disburse the  
30 funds and include a case number with any payment issued to the  
31 department. If directed by the court, a clerk shall issue any  
32 payments made by a tenant to the department without further court  
33 order.

34 (iv) The department may deny an application made by a tenant who  
35 has failed to reimburse the department for prior payments issued  
36 pursuant to this subsection (1)(c).

37 (v) With any disbursement from the account to the landlord, the  
38 department shall notify the tenant at the address provided within the  
39 application that a disbursement has been made to the landlord on the  
40 tenant's behalf and that failure to reimburse the account for the



1 payment through the court registry may result in a denial of a future  
2 application to the account pursuant to this subsection (1)(c). The  
3 department may include any other additional information about how to  
4 reimburse the account it deems necessary to fully inform the tenant.

5 (vi) The department's duties with respect to obtaining  
6 reimbursement from the tenant to the account are limited to those  
7 specified within this subsection (1)(c).

8 (vii) If at any time funds do not exist in the landlord  
9 mitigation program account to reimburse claims submitted under this  
10 subsection (1)(c), the department must create and maintain a waitlist  
11 and distribute funds in the order the claims are received pursuant to  
12 subsection (6) of this section. Payment of any claims on the waitlist  
13 shall be made only from the landlord mitigation program account. The  
14 department shall not be civilly or criminally liable and may not have  
15 any penalty or cause of action of any nature arise against it  
16 regarding the provision or lack of provision of funds for  
17 reimbursement.

18 (d) (i) Claims related to landlord mitigation for:

19 (A) Up to \$15,000 in unpaid rent that accrued between March 1,  
20 2020, and six months following the expiration of the eviction  
21 moratorium and the tenant being low-income, limited resourced or  
22 experiencing hardship, voluntarily vacated or abandoned the tenancy;  
23 or

24 (B) Up to \$15,000 in remaining unpaid rent if a tenant defaults  
25 on a repayment plan entered into under section 4 of this act are  
26 eligible for reimbursement from the landlord mitigation program  
27 account subject to the program requirements under this section,  
28 provided the tenancy has not been terminated at the time of  
29 reimbursement.

30 (ii) A landlord is ineligible for reimbursement under this  
31 subsection (1)(d) where the tenant vacated the tenancy because of an  
32 unlawful detainer action under RCW 59.12.030(3).

33 (iii) A landlord in receipt of reimbursement from the program  
34 pursuant to this subsection (1)(d) is prohibited from:

35 (A) Taking legal action against the tenant for damages or any  
36 remaining unpaid rent accrued between March 1, 2020, and six months  
37 following the expiration of the eviction moratorium attributable to  
38 the same tenancy; or

39 (B) Pursuing collection, or authorizing another entity to pursue  
40 collection on the landlord's behalf, of a judgment against the tenant

1 for damages or any remaining unpaid rent accrued between March 1,  
2 2020, and six months following the expiration of the eviction  
3 moratorium attributable to the same tenancy.

4 (2) In order for a claim under subsection (1)(b)(iii) of this  
5 section to be eligible for reimbursement from the landlord mitigation  
6 program account, a landlord must:

7 (a) Have ensured that the rental property was inspected at the  
8 commencement of the tenancy by both the tenant and the landlord or  
9 landlord's agent and that a detailed written move-in property  
10 inspection report, as required in RCW 59.18.260, was prepared and  
11 signed by both the tenant and the landlord or landlord's agent;

12 (b) Make repairs and then apply for reimbursement to the  
13 department;

14 (c) Submit a claim on a form to be determined by the department,  
15 signed under penalty of perjury; and

16 (d) Submit to the department copies of the move-in property  
17 inspection report specified in (a) of this subsection and supporting  
18 materials including, but not limited to, before repair and after  
19 repair photographs, videos, copies of repair receipts for labor and  
20 materials, and such other documentation or information as the  
21 department may request.

22 (3) The department shall make reasonable efforts to review a  
23 claim within ten business days from the date it received properly  
24 submitted and complete claims to the satisfaction of the department.  
25 In reviewing a claim pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section,  
26 and determining eligibility for reimbursement, the department must  
27 receive documentation, acceptable to the department in its sole  
28 discretion, that the claim involves a private market rental unit  
29 rented to a low-income tenant who is using a housing subsidy program.

30 (4) Claims pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section related  
31 to a tenancy must total at least five hundred dollars in order for a  
32 claim to be eligible for reimbursement from the program. While claims  
33 or damages may exceed five thousand dollars, total reimbursement from  
34 the program may not exceed five thousand dollars per tenancy.

35 (5) Damages, beyond wear and tear, that are eligible for  
36 reimbursement include, but are not limited to: Interior wall gouges  
37 and holes; damage to doors and cabinets, including hardware; carpet  
38 stains or burns; cracked tiles or hard surfaces; broken windows;  
39 damage to household fixtures such as disposal, toilet, sink, sink  
40 handle, ceiling fan, and lighting. Other property damages beyond

1 normal wear and tear may also be eligible for reimbursement at the  
2 department's discretion.

3 (6) All reimbursements for eligible claims shall be made on a  
4 first-come, first-served basis, to the extent of available funds. The  
5 department shall use best efforts to notify the tenant of the amount  
6 and the reasons for any reimbursements made.

7 (7) The department, in its sole discretion, may inspect the  
8 property and the landlord's records related to a claim, including the  
9 use of a third-party inspector as needed to investigate fraud, to  
10 assist in making its claim review and determination of eligibility.

11 (8) A landlord in receipt of reimbursement from the program  
12 pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section is prohibited from:

13 (a) Taking legal action against the tenant for damages  
14 attributable to the same tenancy; or

15 (b) Pursuing collection, or authorizing another entity to pursue  
16 collection on the landlord's behalf, of a judgment against the tenant  
17 for damages attributable to the same tenancy.

18 (9) A landlord denied reimbursement under subsection (1)(b)(iii)  
19 of this section may seek to obtain a judgment from a court of  
20 competent jurisdiction and, if successful, may resubmit a claim for  
21 damages supported by the judgment, along with a certified copy of the  
22 judgment. The department may reimburse the landlord for that portion  
23 of such judgment that is based on damages reimbursable under the  
24 landlord mitigation program, subject to the limitations set forth in  
25 this section.

26 (10) Determinations regarding reimbursements shall be made by the  
27 department in its sole discretion.

28 (11) The department must establish a website that advertises the  
29 landlord mitigation program, the availability of reimbursement from  
30 the landlord mitigation program account, and maintains or links to  
31 the agency rules and policies established pursuant to this section.

32 (12) Neither the state, the department, or persons acting on  
33 behalf of the department, while acting within the scope of their  
34 employment or agency, is liable to any person for any loss, damage,  
35 harm, or other consequence resulting directly or indirectly from the  
36 department's administration of the landlord mitigation program or  
37 determinations under this section.

38 (13)(a) A report to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
39 on the effectiveness of the program and recommended modifications  
40 shall be submitted to the governor and the appropriate committees of

1 the legislature by January 1, 2021. In preparing the report, the  
2 department shall convene and solicit input from a group of  
3 stakeholders to include representatives of large multifamily housing  
4 property owners or managers, small rental housing owners in both  
5 rural and urban markets, a representative of tenant advocates, and a  
6 representative of the housing authorities.

7 (b) The report shall include discussion of the effectiveness of  
8 the program as well as the department's recommendations to improve  
9 the program, and shall include the following:

10 (i) The number of total claims and total amount reimbursed to  
11 landlords by the fund;

12 (ii) Any indices of fraud identified by the department;

13 (iii) Any reports by the department regarding inspections  
14 authorized by and conducted on behalf of the department;

15 (iv) An outline of the process to obtain reimbursement for  
16 improvements and for damages from the fund;

17 (v) An outline of the process to obtain reimbursement for lost  
18 rent due to the rental inspection and tenant screening process,  
19 together with the total amount reimbursed for such damages;

20 (vi) An evaluation of the feasibility for expanding the use of  
21 the mitigation fund to provide up to ninety-day no interest loans to  
22 landlords who have not received timely rental payments from a housing  
23 authority that is administering section 8 rental assistance;

24 (vii) Any other modifications and recommendations made by  
25 stakeholders to improve the effectiveness and applicability of the  
26 program.

27 (14) As used in this section:

28 (a) "Housing subsidy program" means a housing voucher as  
29 established under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1437 as of January 1, 2018, or other  
30 housing subsidy program including, but not limited to, valid short-  
31 term or long-term federal, state, or local government, private  
32 nonprofit, or other assistance program in which the tenant's rent is  
33 paid either partially by the program and partially by the tenant, or  
34 completely by the program directly to the landlord;

35 (b) "Low-income" means income that does not exceed eighty percent  
36 of the median income for the standard metropolitan statistical area  
37 in which the private market rental unit is located; and

38 (c) "Private market rental unit" means any unit available for  
39 rent that is owned by an individual, corporation, limited liability  
40 company, nonprofit housing provider, or other entity structure, but

1 does not include housing acquired, or constructed by a public housing  
2 agency under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1437 as it existed on January 1, 2018.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.31.615 and 2019 c 356 s 13 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The landlord mitigation program account is created in the  
6 custody of the state treasury. All transfers and appropriations by  
7 the legislature, repayments, private contributions, and all other  
8 sources must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the  
9 account may only be used for the landlord mitigation program under  
10 this chapter to reimburse landlords for eligible claims related to  
11 private market rental units during the time of their rental to low-  
12 income tenants using housing subsidy programs as defined in RCW  
13 43.31.605, for any unpaid judgment issued within an unlawful detainer  
14 action after a court order pursuant to RCW 59.18.410(3) as described  
15 in RCW 43.31.605(1)(c), for any unpaid rent as described in RCW  
16 43.31.605(1)(d), and for the administrative costs identified in  
17 subsection (2) of this section. Only the director or the director's  
18 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is  
19 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
20 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

21 (2) Administrative costs associated with application,  
22 distribution, and other program activities of the department may not  
23 exceed twenty percent of the annual funds available for the landlord  
24 mitigation program. Reappropriations must not be included in the  
25 calculation of the annual funds available for determining the  
26 administrative costs.

27 (3) Funds deposited into the landlord mitigation program account  
28 shall be prioritized by the department for allowable costs under RCW  
29 43.31.605(1)(b), and may only be used for other allowable costs when  
30 funding available in the account exceeds the amount needed to pay  
31 claims under RCW 43.31.605(1)(b).

## 32 **EVICTION RESOLUTION PILOT PROGRAM**

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 59.18  
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
36 specific purpose, the administrative office of the courts shall  
37 contract with dispute resolution centers as described under chapter

1 7.75 RCW within or serving each county to establish a court-based  
2 eviction resolution pilot program operated in accordance with  
3 Washington supreme court order no. 25700-B-639 and any standing  
4 judicial order of the individual superior court.

5 (2) The eviction resolution pilot program must be used to  
6 facilitate the resolution of nonpayment of rent cases between a  
7 landlord and tenant before the landlord files an unlawful detainer  
8 action.

9 (3) Prior to filing an unlawful detainer action for nonpayment of  
10 rent, the landlord must provide a notice as required under RCW  
11 59.12.030(3) and an additional notice to the tenant informing them of  
12 the eviction resolution pilot program. The landlord must retain proof  
13 of service or mailing of the additional notice. The additional notice  
14 to the tenant must provide at least the following information  
15 regarding the eviction resolution pilot program:

16 (a) Contact information for the local dispute resolution center;

17 (b) Contact information for the county's housing justice project  
18 or, if none, a statewide organization providing housing advocacy  
19 services for low-income residents;

20 (c) The following statement: "The Washington state office of the  
21 attorney general has this notice in multiple languages on its  
22 website. You will also find information there on how to find a lawyer  
23 or advocate at low or no cost and any available resources to help you  
24 pay your rent. Alternatively, you may find additional information to  
25 help you at <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org>";

26 (d) The name and contact information of the landlord, the  
27 landlord's attorney, if any, and the tenant; and

28 (e) The following statement: "Failure to respond to this notice  
29 within 14 days may result in the filing of a summons and complaint  
30 for an unlawful detainer action with the court."

31 (4) At the time of service or mailing of the pay or vacate notice  
32 and additional notice to the tenant, a landlord must also send copies  
33 of these notices to the local dispute resolution center serving the  
34 area where the property is located.

35 (5) A landlord must secure a certification of participation with  
36 the eviction resolution program by the appropriate dispute resolution  
37 center before an unlawful detainer action for nonpayment of rent may  
38 be heard by the court.

1 (6) The administrative office of the courts may also establish  
2 and produce any other notice forms and requirements as necessary to  
3 implement the eviction resolution pilot program.

4 (7) Any superior court, in collaboration with the dispute  
5 resolution center that is located within or serving the same county,  
6 participating in the eviction resolution pilot program must report  
7 annually to the administrative office of the courts beginning January  
8 1, 2022, until January 1, 2023, on the following:

9 (a) The number of unlawful detainer actions for nonpayment of  
10 rent that were subject to program requirements;

11 (b) The number of referrals made to dispute resolution centers;

12 (c) The number of nonpayment of rent cases resolved by the  
13 program;

14 (d) How many instances the tenant had legal representation either  
15 at the conciliation stage or formal mediation stage;

16 (e) The number of certifications issued by dispute resolution  
17 centers and filed by landlords with the court; and

18 (f) Any other information that relates to the efficacy of the  
19 pilot program.

20 (8) By July 1, 2022, until July 1, 2023, the administrative  
21 office of the courts must provide a report to the legislature  
22 summarizing the report data shared by the superior courts and dispute  
23 resolution centers under subsection (7) of this section.

24 (9) This section expires July 1, 2023.

## 25 **RIGHT TO COUNSEL**

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 59.18  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
29 specific purpose, the court must appoint an attorney for an indigent  
30 tenant in an unlawful detainer proceeding under this chapter and  
31 chapters 59.12 and 59.20 RCW. The office of civil legal aid is  
32 responsible for implementation of this subsection as provided in  
33 section 9 of this act, and the state shall pay the costs of legal  
34 services provided by an attorney appointed pursuant to this  
35 subsection. In implementing this section, the office of civil legal  
36 aid shall assign priority to providing legal representation to  
37 indigent tenants in those counties in which the most evictions occur

1 and to indigent tenants who are disproportionately at risk of  
2 eviction.

3 (2) For purposes of this section, "indigent" means any person  
4 who, at any stage of a court proceeding, is:

5 (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:  
6 Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled  
7 assistance benefits, medical care services under RCW 74.09.035,  
8 pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans'  
9 benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred  
10 electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, or  
11 supplemental security income; or

12 (b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of 200 percent or  
13 less of the current federally established poverty level.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 2.53 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Moneys appropriated by the legislature for legal services  
17 provided by an attorney appointed pursuant to section 8 of this act  
18 must be administered by the office of civil legal aid established  
19 under RCW 2.53.020. The office of civil legal aid must enter into  
20 contracts with attorneys and agencies for the provision of legal  
21 services under section 8 of this act to remain within appropriated  
22 amounts.

23 (2) The legislature recognizes that the office of civil legal aid  
24 needs time to properly implement the right to attorney legal  
25 representation for indigent tenants under and consistent with section  
26 8 of this act. Within 90 days after the effective date of this  
27 section, the office of civil legal aid must submit to the appropriate  
28 legislative committees a plan to fully implement the tenant  
29 representation program under and consistent with section 8 of this  
30 act within 12 months of the effective date of this section.

31 **Sec. 10.** RCW 59.18.057 and 2020 c 315 s 2 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) Every (~~fourteen-day~~) 14-day notice served pursuant to RCW  
34 59.12.030(3) must be in substantially the following form:

35 "TO:  
36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 AND TO:  
38 \_\_\_\_\_  
39 ADDRESS:  
40 \_\_\_\_\_



1           **FOURTEEN-DAY NOTICE TO PAY RENT OR VACATE THE PREMISES**

2           You are receiving this notice because the landlord alleges you  
3 are not in compliance with the terms of the lease agreement by  
4 failing to pay rent and/or utilities and/or recurring or periodic  
5 charges that are past due.

6           **(1) Monthly rent due for (list month(s)): \$ (dollar amount)**

7           **AND/OR**

8           **(2) Utilities due for (list month(s)): \$ (dollar amount)**

9           **AND/OR**

10          **(3) Other recurring or periodic charges identified in the lease**  
11 **for (list month(s)): \$ (dollar amount)**

12           **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ (dollar amount)**

13          **Note - payment must be made pursuant to the terms of the rental**  
14 **agreement or by nonelectronic means including, but not limited to,**  
15 **cashier's check, money order, or other certified funds.**

16          You must pay the total amount due to your landlord within  
17 fourteen (14) days after service of this notice or you must vacate  
18 the premises. Any payment you make to the landlord must first be  
19 applied to the total amount due as shown on this notice. Any failure  
20 to comply with this notice within fourteen (14) days after service of  
21 this notice may result in a judicial proceeding that leads to your  
22 eviction from the premises.

23          **The Washington state Office of the Attorney General has this**  
24 **notice in multiple languages as well as information on available**  
25 **resources to help you pay your rent, including state and local rental**  
26 **assistance programs, on its website at [30          ~~Alternatively, for no-cost legal assistance for low-income~~  
31 \*\*renters\)\) State law provides you the right to legal representation\*\*  
32 \*\*and the court may be able to appoint a lawyer to represent you\*\*  
33 \*\*without cost to you if you are a qualifying low-income renter. If you\*\*  
34 \*\*believe you are a qualifying low-income renter and would like an\*\*  
35 \*\*attorney appointed to represent you, please contact the Eviction\*\*  
36 \*\*Defense Screening Line at 855-657-8387 or apply online at \[https://\]\(https://nwjustice.org/apply-online\)\*\*  
37 \*\*\[nwjustice.org/apply-online\]\(https://nwjustice.org/apply-online\). For additional resources, call 2-1-1 or\*\*  
38 \*\*the Northwest Justice Project CLEAR Hotline outside King County \(888\)\*\*  
39 \*\*201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., or \(888\) 387-7111\*\*  
40 \*\*for seniors \(age 60 and over\). You may find additional information to\*\*](http://www.atg.wa.gov/landlord-</a></u></b><br/>27 <b><u>tenant.</u> (<del>You will also find information there on how to find a</del></b><br/>28 <b><del>lawyer or advocate at low or no cost and any available resources to</del></b><br/>29 <b><del>help you pay your rent.</del></b></p></div><div data-bbox=)**

1 help you at <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org>. Free or low-cost  
2 mediation services to assist in nonpayment of rent disputes before  
3 any judicial proceedings occur are also available at dispute  
4 resolution centers throughout the state. You can find your nearest  
5 dispute resolution center at <https://www.resolutionwa.org>.

6 State law also provides you the right to receive interpreter  
7 services at court.  
8

9 OWNER/LANDLORD: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

10  
11 WHERE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE IS TO BE PAID: \_\_\_\_ (owner/landlord name) \_\_\_\_  
12 \_\_\_\_\_ (address) \_\_\_\_\_"

13 (2) Upon expiration of the eviction resolution pilot program  
14 established under section 7 of this act:

15 (a) The landlord must also provide the notice required in this  
16 section to the dispute resolution center located within or serving  
17 the county in which the dwelling unit is located. It is a defense to  
18 an eviction under RCW 59.12.030 that a landlord did not provide  
19 additional notice under this subsection.

20 (b) Dispute resolution centers are encouraged to notify the  
21 housing justice project or northwest justice project located within  
22 or serving the county in which the dispute resolution center is  
23 located, as appropriate, once notice is received from the landlord  
24 under this subsection.

25 (3) The form required in this section does not abrogate any  
26 additional notice requirements to tenants as required by federal,  
27 state, or local law.

28 **Sec. 11.** RCW 59.18.365 and 2020 c 315 s 4 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The summons must contain the names of the parties to the  
31 proceeding, the attorney or attorneys if any, the court in which the  
32 same is brought, the nature of the action, in concise terms, and the  
33 relief sought, and also the return day; and must notify the defendant  
34 to appear and answer within the time designated or that the relief  
35 sought will be taken against him or her. The summons must contain a  
36 street address for service of the notice of appearance or answer and,

1 if available, a facsimile number for the plaintiff or the plaintiff's  
2 attorney, if represented. The summons must be served and returned in  
3 the same manner as a summons in other actions is served and returned.

4 (2) A defendant may serve a copy of an answer or notice of  
5 appearance by any of the following methods:

6 (a) By delivering a copy of the answer or notice of appearance to  
7 the person who signed the summons at the street address listed on the  
8 summons;

9 (b) By mailing a copy of the answer or notice of appearance  
10 addressed to the person who signed the summons to the street address  
11 listed on the summons;

12 (c) By facsimile to the facsimile number listed on the summons.  
13 Service by facsimile is complete upon successful transmission to the  
14 facsimile number listed upon the summons;

15 (d) As otherwise authorized by the superior court civil rules.

16 (3) The summons for unlawful detainer actions for tenancies  
17 covered by this chapter shall be substantially in the following form:

18 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
19 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
20 IN AND  
21 FOR . . . . . COUNTY

22 Plaintiff/ } NO.  
23 Landlord/ }  
24 Owner, }  
25 }

26  
27  
28  
29 vs. EVICTION SUMMONS  
30 (Residential)

31 Defendant/  
32 Tenant/  
33 Occupant.

34 THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT TO EVICT YOU.

35 YOUR **WRITTEN**

36 RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY: 5:00 p.m., on . . . . .

37 TO: . . . . . (Defendant's Name)

1 . . . . . (Defendant's Address)

2 **GET HELP: If you do not respond by the deadline above, you will**  
3 **lose your right to defend yourself or be represented by a lawyer if**  
4 **you cannot afford one in court and could be evicted.** ((If you cannot  
5 ~~afford a lawyer~~) The court may be able to appoint a lawyer to  
6 represent you without cost to you if you are low-income and are  
7 unable to afford a lawyer. If you believe you are a qualifying low-  
8 income renter and would like an attorney appointed to represent you,  
9 please contact the Eviction Defense Screening Line at 855-657-8387 or  
10 apply online at <https://nwjustice.org/apply-online>. For additional  
11 resources, you may call 2-1-1 or the Northwest Justice Project CLEAR  
12 Hotline outside King County (888) 201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 a.m.  
13 - 12:15 p.m., or (888) 387-7111 for seniors (age 60 and over). ((They  
14 ~~can refer you to free or low-cost legal help.~~) You may find  
15 additional information to help you at [http://](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)  
16 [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org). Free or low-cost mediation services to  
17 assist in nonpayment of rent disputes before any judicial proceedings  
18 occur are also available at dispute resolution centers throughout the  
19 state. You can find your nearest dispute resolution center at  
20 <https://www.resolutionwa.org>.

21 **HOW TO RESPOND: Phone calls to your Landlord or your Landlord's**  
22 **lawyer are not a response.** You may respond with a "notice of  
23 appearance." This is a letter that includes the following:

- 24 (1) A statement that you are appearing in the court case
- 25 (2) Names of the landlord(s) and the tenant(s) (as listed above)
- 26 (3) Your name, your address where legal documents may be sent,  
27 your signature, phone number (if any), and case number (if the case  
28 is filed)

29 This case  is /  is not filed with the court. If this case is  
30 filed, you need to also file your response with the court by  
31 delivering a copy to the clerk of the court at: . . . . .  
32 (Clerk's Office/Address/Room number/Business hours of court clerk)

33 **WHERE TO RESPOND:** You must mail, fax, or hand deliver your  
34 response letter to your Landlord's lawyer, or if no lawyer is named  
35 in the complaint, to your Landlord. If you mail the response letter,  
36 you must do it 3 days before the deadline above. Request receipt of a  
37 proof of mailing from the post office. If you hand deliver or fax it,  
38 you must do it by the deadline above. The address is:

39 . . . . . (Attorney/Landlord Name)  
40 . . . . . (Address)

1 . . . . . (Fax - required if available)

2 **COURT DATE:** If you respond to this Summons, you will be notified  
3 of your hearing date in a document called an "Order to Show Cause."  
4 This is usually mailed to you. If you get notice of a hearing, **you**  
5 **must go to the hearing.** If you do not show up, your landlord can  
6 evict you. Your landlord might also charge you more money. If you  
7 move before the court date, you must tell your landlord or the  
8 landlord's attorney.

9 **LANDLORD ACCESS TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) The department must authorize landlords an opportunity to  
13 apply to the following programs, if feasible, and establish  
14 application and eligibility requirements and any conditions on the  
15 receipt of funds as the department deems appropriate:

16 (a) Rental assistance provided through the consolidated homeless  
17 grant program;

18 (b) Rental assistance provided through the emergency solutions  
19 grant program; and

20 (c) Any rental assistance program funded through receipt of any  
21 federal COVID-19 relief funds.

22 (2) Until March 31, 2022, the department must provide rental  
23 assistance directly to a landlord on behalf of an indigent tenant who  
24 is unable to:

25 (a) Access an eviction resolution pilot program, as described in  
26 section 7 of this act, because such a program is either not available  
27 in the region in which the property is located or the regional  
28 program is not accepting new claims; or

29 (b) Obtain legal representation as described in section 8 of this  
30 act.

31 (3) For the purposes of this section, "indigent" has the same  
32 meaning as section 8(2) of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of \$7,500,000 for the fiscal  
34 biennium ending June 30, 2023, is appropriated from the coronavirus  
35 state fiscal recovery fund created in Engrossed Substitute Senate  
36 Bill No. 5092 (operating budget) to the department of commerce for  
37 the purposes of a landlord grant assistance program to provide grants

1 to eligible landlords for rent that was not paid during the eviction  
2 moratorium pursuant to the governor's proclamation 20-19.6. The  
3 department shall have such rule-making authority as the department  
4 deems necessary to administer the program.

5 (1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a landlord  
6 must:

7 (a) Apply for a grant or have a property manager or property  
8 management company apply for a grant on behalf of a landlord;

9 (b) Be the sole investor in the property from which they are  
10 seeking rental arrears;

11 (c) Be the owner of no more than 10 dwelling units from which  
12 they receive rental payments; and

13 (d) Provide proof of ownership of the property and a statement  
14 certified under penalty of perjury of the amount of rent due during  
15 the eviction moratorium that the landlord was not paid by the tenant,  
16 through funds acquired through an emergency rental assistance program  
17 provided by a governmental or nonprofit entity, through the state  
18 landlord mitigation program defined in RCW 43.31.605, or through any  
19 other means that would reasonably be considered payment of rent due.

20 (2) Eligible landlords may receive a grant of up to 80 percent of  
21 the total amount of rent in arrears.

22 (3) The department will disburse funds to eligible landlords  
23 within 60 days of submission of the application. Eligibility for a  
24 grant under this section does not constitute an entitlement for  
25 payment. If eligible applications for grants exceed the funds  
26 appropriated in this section, the department must create and maintain  
27 a waitlist in the order the applications are received pursuant to  
28 this section. The department shall not be civilly or criminally  
29 liable and may not have any penalty or cause of action of any nature  
30 arise against it regarding the provision or lack of provision of  
31 funds.

32 (4) The department shall provide a report to the appropriate  
33 committees of the legislature by September 30, 2023, which shall  
34 include the number of eligible applicants who received grants and the  
35 total funds provided to such applicants, the number of eligible  
36 applicants on the waitlist who did not receive grants and the total  
37 amount of grants unpaid due to lack of funds, and the number of  
38 ineligible applicants and the reasons for ineligibility.

39 (5) A landlord who receives a grant under this section is  
40 prohibited from:

1 (a) Taking any legal action against the tenant for unpaid rent or  
2 damages attributable to the same tenancy; or

3 (b) Pursuing collection, or authorizing another entity to pursue  
4 collection on the landlord's behalf, against the tenant for unpaid  
5 rent or damages attributable to the same tenancy.

6 (6) This section expires December 31, 2024.

7 **OTHER TENANT PROTECTIONS**

8 **Sec. 14.** RCW 59.12.040 and 2010 c 8 s 19007 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 Any notice provided for in this chapter shall be served either  
11 (1) by delivering a copy personally to the person entitled thereto;  
12 or (2) if he or she be absent from the premises unlawfully held, by  
13 leaving there a copy, with some person of suitable age and  
14 discretion, and sending a copy through the mail addressed to the  
15 person entitled thereto at his or her place of residence; or (3) if  
16 the person to be notified be a tenant, or an unlawful holder of  
17 premises, and his or her place of residence is not known, or if a  
18 person of suitable age and discretion there cannot be found then by  
19 affixing a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place on the premises  
20 unlawfully held, and also delivering a copy to a person there  
21 residing, if such a person can be found, and also sending a copy  
22 through the mail addressed to the tenant, or unlawful occupant, at  
23 the place where the premises unlawfully held are situated. Service  
24 upon a subtenant may be made in the same manner: PROVIDED, That in  
25 cases where the tenant or unlawful occupant, shall be conducting a  
26 hotel, inn, lodging house, boarding house, or shall be renting rooms  
27 while still retaining control of the premises as a whole, that the  
28 guests, lodgers, boarders, or persons renting such rooms shall not be  
29 considered as subtenants within the meaning of this chapter, but all  
30 such persons may be served by affixing a copy of the notice to be  
31 served in two conspicuous places upon the premises unlawfully held;  
32 and such persons shall not be necessary parties defendant in an  
33 action to recover possession of said premises. Service of any notice  
34 provided for in this chapter may be had upon a corporation by  
35 delivering a copy thereof to any officer, agent, or person having  
36 charge of the business of such corporation, at the premises  
37 unlawfully held, and in case no such officer, agent, or person can be  
38 found upon such premises, then service may be had by affixing a copy

1 of such notice in a conspicuous place upon said premises and by  
2 sending a copy through the mail addressed to such corporation at the  
3 place where said premises are situated. Proof of any service under  
4 this section may be made by the affidavit of the person making the  
5 same in like manner and with like effect as the proof of service of  
6 summons in civil actions. When a copy of notice is sent through the  
7 mail, as provided in this section, service shall be deemed complete  
8 when such copy is deposited in the United States mail in the county  
9 in which the property is situated properly addressed with postage  
10 prepaid: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That when service is made by mail one  
11 additional day shall be allowed before the commencement of an action  
12 based upon such notice. ((RCW 59.18.375 may also apply to notice  
13 given under this chapter.))

14 **Sec. 15.** RCW 59.18.230 and 2020 c 315 s 6 and 2020 c 177 s 2 are  
15 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

16 (1) (a) Any provision of a lease or other agreement, whether oral  
17 or written, whereby any section or subsection of this chapter is  
18 waived except as provided in RCW 59.18.360 and shall be deemed  
19 against public policy and shall be unenforceable. Such  
20 unenforceability shall not affect other provisions of the agreement  
21 which can be given effect without them.

22 (b) Any agreement, whether oral or written, between a landlord  
23 and tenant, or their representatives, and entered into pursuant to an  
24 unlawful detainer action under this chapter that requires the tenant  
25 to pay any amount in violation of RCW 59.18.283 or the statutory  
26 judgment amount limits under RCW 59.18.410 (1) or (2), or waives any  
27 rights of the tenant under RCW 59.18.410 or any other rights afforded  
28 under this chapter except as provided in RCW 59.18.360 is void and  
29 unenforceable. A landlord may not threaten a tenant with eviction for  
30 failure to pay nonpossessory charges limited under RCW 59.18.283.

31 (2) No rental agreement may provide that the tenant:

32 (a) Agrees to waive or to forgo rights or remedies under this  
33 chapter; or

34 (b) Authorizes any person to confess judgment on a claim arising  
35 out of the rental agreement; or

36 (c) Agrees to pay the landlord's attorneys' fees, except as  
37 authorized in this chapter; or



1 (d) Agrees to the exculpation or limitation of any liability of  
2 the landlord arising under law or to indemnify the landlord for that  
3 liability or the costs connected therewith; or

4 (e) And landlord have agreed to a particular arbitrator at the  
5 time the rental agreement is entered into; or

6 (f) Agrees to pay late fees for rent that is paid within five  
7 days following its due date. If rent is more than five days past due,  
8 the landlord may charge late fees commencing from the first day after  
9 the due date until paid. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a  
10 landlord from serving a notice to pay or vacate at any time after the  
11 rent becomes due.

12 (3) A provision prohibited by subsection (2) of this section  
13 included in a rental agreement is unenforceable. If a landlord  
14 deliberately uses a rental agreement containing provisions known by  
15 him or her to be prohibited, the tenant may recover actual damages  
16 sustained by him or her, statutory damages not to exceed (~~five~~  
17 ~~hundred dollars~~) \$500, costs of suit, and reasonable attorneys'  
18 fees.

19 (4) The common law right of the landlord of distress for rent is  
20 hereby abolished for property covered by this chapter. Any provision  
21 in a rental agreement creating a lien upon the personal property of  
22 the tenant or authorizing a distress for rent is null and void and of  
23 no force and effect. Any landlord who takes or detains the personal  
24 property of a tenant without the specific written consent of the  
25 tenant to such incident of taking or detention, and who, after  
26 written demand by the tenant for the return of his or her personal  
27 property, refuses to return the same promptly shall be liable to the  
28 tenant for the value of the property retained, actual damages, and if  
29 the refusal is intentional, may also be liable for damages of up to  
30 (~~five hundred dollars~~) \$500 per day but not to exceed (~~five~~  
31 ~~thousand dollars~~) \$5,000, for each day or part of a day that the  
32 tenant is deprived of his or her property. The prevailing party may  
33 recover his or her costs of suit and a reasonable attorneys' fee.

34 In any action, including actions pursuant to chapters 7.64 or  
35 12.28 RCW, brought by a tenant or other person to recover possession  
36 of his or her personal property taken or detained by a landlord in  
37 violation of this section, the court, upon motion and after notice to  
38 the opposing parties, may waive or reduce any bond requirements where  
39 it appears to be to the satisfaction of the court that the moving

1 party is proceeding in good faith and has, prima facie, a meritorious  
2 claim for immediate delivery or redelivery of said property.

3 **Sec. 16.** RCW 59.20.040 and 1999 c 359 s 3 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 This chapter shall regulate and determine legal rights, remedies,  
6 and obligations arising from any rental agreement between a landlord  
7 and a tenant regarding a mobile home lot and including specified  
8 amenities within the mobile home park, mobile home park cooperative,  
9 or mobile home park subdivision, where the tenant has no ownership  
10 interest in the property or in the association which owns the  
11 property, whose uses are referred to as a part of the rent structure  
12 paid by the tenant. All such rental agreements shall be unenforceable  
13 to the extent of any conflict with any provision of this chapter.  
14 Chapter 59.12 RCW shall be applicable only in implementation of the  
15 provisions of this chapter and not as an alternative remedy to this  
16 chapter which shall be exclusive where applicable: PROVIDED, That the  
17 provision of RCW 59.12.090, 59.12.100, and 59.12.170 shall not apply  
18 to any rental agreement included under the provisions of this  
19 chapter. RCW 59.18.055 (~~and 59.18.370~~), section 8 of this act,  
20 59.18.365, 59.18.370, and 59.18.380 through 59.18.410 shall be  
21 applicable to any action of forcible entry or detainer or unlawful  
22 detainer arising from a tenancy under the provisions of this chapter,  
23 except when a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model or a  
24 tenancy in a mobile home lot is abandoned. Rentals of mobile homes,  
25 manufactured homes, or park models themselves are governed by the  
26 residential landlord-tenant act, chapter 59.18 RCW.

27 **Sec. 17.** RCW 59.18.410 and 2020 c 315 s 5 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) If at trial the verdict of the jury or, if the case is tried  
30 without a jury, the finding of the court is in favor of the landlord  
31 and against the tenant, judgment shall be entered for the restitution  
32 of the premises; and if the proceeding is for unlawful detainer after  
33 neglect or failure to perform any condition or covenant of a lease or  
34 agreement under which the property is held, or after default in the  
35 payment of rent, the judgment shall also declare the forfeiture of  
36 the lease, agreement, or tenancy. The jury, or the court, if the  
37 proceedings are tried without a jury, shall also assess the damages  
38 arising out of the tenancy occasioned to the landlord by any forcible

1 entry, or by any forcible or unlawful detainer, alleged in the  
2 complaint and proved at trial, and, if the alleged unlawful detainer  
3 is based on default in the payment of rent, find the amount of any  
4 rent due, and the judgment shall be rendered against the tenant  
5 liable for the forcible entry, forcible detainer, or unlawful  
6 detainer for the amount of damages thus assessed, for the rent, if  
7 any, found due, and late fees if such fees are due under the lease  
8 and do not exceed seventy-five dollars in total. The court may award  
9 statutory costs. The court may also award reasonable attorneys' fees  
10 as provided in RCW 59.18.290.

11 (2) When the tenant is liable for unlawful detainer after a  
12 default in the payment of rent, execution upon the judgment shall not  
13 occur until the expiration of five court days after the entry of the  
14 judgment. Before entry of a judgment or until five court days have  
15 expired after entry of the judgment, the tenant or any subtenant, or  
16 any mortgagee of the term, or other party interested in the  
17 continuance of the tenancy, may pay into court or to the landlord the  
18 amount of the rent due, any court costs incurred at the time of  
19 payment, late fees if such fees are due under the lease and do not  
20 exceed seventy-five dollars in total, and attorneys' fees if awarded,  
21 in which event any judgment entered shall be satisfied and the tenant  
22 restored to his or her tenancy. If the tenant seeks to restore his or  
23 her tenancy after entry of a judgment, the tenant may tender the  
24 amount stated within the judgment as long as that amount does not  
25 exceed the amount authorized under subsection (1) of this section. If  
26 a tenant seeks to restore his or her tenancy and pay the amount set  
27 forth in this subsection with funds acquired through an emergency  
28 rental assistance program provided by a governmental or nonprofit  
29 entity, the tenant shall provide a copy of the pledge of emergency  
30 rental assistance provided from the appropriate governmental or  
31 nonprofit entity and have an opportunity to exercise such rights  
32 under this subsection, which may include a stay of judgment and  
33 provision by the landlord of documentation necessary for processing  
34 the assistance. The landlord shall accept any pledge of emergency  
35 rental assistance funds provided to the tenant from a governmental or  
36 nonprofit entity before the expiration of any pay or vacate notice  
37 for nonpayment of rent for the full amount of the rent owing under  
38 the rental agreement. The landlord shall accept any written pledge of  
39 emergency rental assistance funds provided to the tenant from a  
40 governmental or nonprofit entity after the expiration of the pay or

1 vacate notice if the pledge will contribute to the total payment of  
2 both the amount of rent due, including any current rent, and other  
3 amounts if required under this subsection. The landlord shall suspend  
4 any court action for seven court days after providing necessary  
5 payment information to the nonprofit or governmental entity to allow  
6 for payment of the emergency rental assistance funds. By accepting  
7 such pledge of emergency rental assistance, the landlord is not  
8 required to enter into any additional conditions not related to the  
9 provision of necessary payment information and documentation. If a  
10 judgment has been satisfied, the landlord shall file a satisfaction  
11 of judgment with the court. A tenant seeking to exercise rights under  
12 this subsection shall pay an additional fifty dollars for each time  
13 the tenant was reinstated after judgment pursuant to this subsection  
14 within the previous twelve months prior to payment. If payment of the  
15 amount specified in this subsection is not made within five court  
16 days after the entry of the judgment, the judgment may be enforced  
17 for its full amount and for the possession of the premises.

18 (3) (a) Following the entry of a judgment in favor of the landlord  
19 and against the tenant for the restitution of the premises and  
20 forfeiture of the tenancy due to nonpayment of rent, the court, at  
21 the time of the show cause hearing or trial, or upon subsequent  
22 motion of the tenant but before the execution of the writ of  
23 restitution, may stay the writ of restitution upon good cause and on  
24 such terms that the court deems fair and just for both parties. In  
25 making this decision, the court shall consider evidence of the  
26 following factors:

27 (i) The tenant's willful or intentional default or intentional  
28 failure to pay rent;

29 (ii) Whether nonpayment of the rent was caused by exigent  
30 circumstances that were beyond the tenant's control and that are not  
31 likely to recur;

32 (iii) The tenant's ability to timely pay the judgment;

33 (iv) The tenant's payment history;

34 (v) Whether the tenant is otherwise in substantial compliance  
35 with the rental agreement;

36 (vi) Hardship on the tenant if evicted; and

37 (vii) Conduct related to other notices served within the last six  
38 months.

39 (b) The burden of proof for such relief under this subsection (3)  
40 shall be on the tenant. If the tenant seeks relief pursuant to this

1 subsection (3) at the time of the show cause hearing, the court shall  
2 hear the matter at the time of the show cause hearing or as  
3 expeditiously as possible so as to avoid unnecessary delay or  
4 hardship on the parties.

5 (c) In any order issued pursuant to this subsection (3):

6 (i) The court shall not stay the writ of restitution more than  
7 ninety days from the date of order, but may order repayment of the  
8 judgment balance within such time. If the payment plan is to exceed  
9 thirty days, the total cumulative payments for each thirty-day period  
10 following the order shall be no less than one month of the tenant's  
11 share of the rent, and the total amount of the judgment and all  
12 additional rent that is due shall be paid within ninety days.

13 (ii) Within any payment plan ordered by the court, the court  
14 shall require the tenant to pay to the landlord or to the court one  
15 month's rent within five court days of issuance of the order. If the  
16 date of the order is on or before the fifteenth of the month, the  
17 tenant shall remain current with ongoing rental payments as they  
18 become due for the duration of the payment plan; if the date of the  
19 order is after the fifteenth of the month, the tenant shall have the  
20 option to apportion the following month's rental payment within the  
21 payment plan, but monthly rental payments thereafter shall be paid  
22 according to the rental agreement.

23 (iii) The sheriff may serve the writ of restitution upon the  
24 tenant before the expiration of the five court days of issuance of  
25 the order; however, the sheriff shall not execute the writ of  
26 restitution until after expiration of the five court days in order  
27 for payment to be made of one month's rent as required by (c)(ii) of  
28 this subsection. In the event payment is made as provided in (c)(ii)  
29 of this subsection for one month's rent, the court shall stay the  
30 writ of restitution ex parte without prior notice to the landlord  
31 upon the tenant filing and presenting a motion to stay with a  
32 declaration of proof of payment demonstrating full compliance with  
33 the required payment of one month's rent. Any order staying the writ  
34 of restitution under this subsection (3)(c)(iii) shall require the  
35 tenant to serve a copy of the order on the landlord by personal  
36 delivery, first-class mail, facsimile, or email if agreed to by the  
37 parties.

38 (A) If the tenant has satisfied (c)(ii) of this subsection by  
39 paying one month's rent within five court days, but defaults on a  
40 subsequent payment required by the court pursuant to this subsection

1 (3)(c), the landlord may enforce the writ of restitution after  
2 serving a notice of default in accordance with RCW 59.12.040  
3 informing the tenant that he or she has defaulted on rent due under  
4 the lease agreement or payment plan entered by the court. Upon  
5 service of the notice of default, the tenant shall have three  
6 calendar days from the date of service to vacate the premises before  
7 the sheriff may execute the writ of restitution.

8 (B) If the landlord serves the notice of default described under  
9 this subsection (3)(c)(iii), an additional day is not included in  
10 calculating the time before the sheriff may execute the writ of  
11 restitution. The notice of default must be in substantially the  
12 following form:

13 NOTICE OF DEFAULT FOR RENT AND/OR PAYMENT PLAN ORDERED BY COURT

14 NAME(S)  
15 ADDRESS  
16 CITY, STATE, ZIP

17 THIS IS NOTICE THAT YOU ARE IN DEFAULT OF YOUR RENT AND/OR  
18 PAYMENT PLAN ORDERED BY THE COURT. YOUR LANDLORD HAS RECEIVED THE  
19 FOLLOWING PAYMENTS:

20 DATE  
21 AMOUNT  
22 DATE  
23 AMOUNT  
24 DATE  
25 AMOUNT

26 THE LANDLORD MAY SCHEDULE YOUR PHYSICAL EVICTION WITHIN THREE  
27 CALENDAR DAYS OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE. TO STOP A PHYSICAL  
28 EVICTION, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE BALANCE OF YOUR RENT AND/OR  
29 PAYMENT PLAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$. . . . .  
30 PAYMENT MAY BE MADE TO THE COURT OR TO THE LANDLORD. IF YOU FAIL  
31 TO PAY THE BALANCE WITHIN THREE CALENDAR DAYS, THE LANDLORD MAY  
32 PROCEED WITH A PHYSICAL EVICTION FOR POSSESSION OF THE UNIT THAT  
33 YOU ARE RENTING.

34 DATE  
35 SIGNATURE  
36 LANDLORD/AGENT  
37 NAME  
38 ADDRESS

1 PHONE

2 (iv) If a tenant seeks to satisfy a condition of this subsection  
3 (3)(c) by relying on an emergency rental assistance program provided  
4 by a government or nonprofit entity and provides an offer of proof,  
5 the court shall stay the writ of restitution as necessary to afford  
6 the tenant an equal opportunity to comply.

7 (v) The court shall extend the writ of restitution as necessary  
8 to enforce the order issued pursuant to this subsection (3)(c) in the  
9 event of default.

10 (d) A tenant who has been served with three or more notices to  
11 pay or vacate for failure to pay rent as set forth in RCW 59.12.040  
12 within twelve months prior to the notice to pay or vacate upon which  
13 the proceeding is based may not seek relief under this subsection  
14 (3).

15 (e)(i) In any application seeking relief pursuant to this  
16 subsection (3) by either the tenant or landlord, the court shall  
17 issue a finding as to whether the tenant is low-income, limited  
18 resourced, or experiencing hardship to determine if the parties would  
19 be eligible for disbursement through the landlord mitigation program  
20 account established within RCW 43.31.605(1)(c). In making this  
21 finding, the court may include an inquiry regarding the tenant's  
22 income relative to area median income, household composition, any  
23 extenuating circumstances, or other factors, and may rely on written  
24 declarations or oral testimony by the parties at the hearing.

25 (ii) After a finding that the tenant is low-income, limited  
26 resourced, or experiencing hardship, the court may issue an order:  
27 (A) Finding that the landlord is eligible to receive on behalf of the  
28 tenant and may apply for reimbursement from the landlord mitigation  
29 program; and (B) directing the clerk to remit, without further order  
30 of the court, any future payments made by the tenant in order to  
31 reimburse the department of commerce pursuant to RCW  
32 43.31.605(1)(c)(iii). In accordance with RCW 43.31.605(1)(c), such an  
33 order must be accompanied by a copy of the order staying the writ of  
34 restitution. Nothing in this subsection (3)(e) shall be deemed to  
35 obligate the department of commerce to provide assistance in claim  
36 reimbursement through the landlord mitigation program if there are  
37 not sufficient funds.

38 (iii) If the department of commerce fails to disburse payment to  
39 the landlord for the judgment pursuant to this subsection (3)(e)  
40 within thirty days from submission of the application, the landlord

1 may renew an application for a writ of restitution pursuant to RCW  
2 59.18.370 and for other rent owed by the tenant since the time of  
3 entry of the prior judgment. In such event, the tenant may exercise  
4 rights afforded under this section.

5 (iv) Upon payment by the department of commerce to the landlord  
6 for the remaining or total amount of the judgment, as applicable, the  
7 judgment is satisfied and the landlord shall file a satisfaction of  
8 judgment with the court.

9 (v) Nothing in this subsection (3)(e) prohibits the landlord from  
10 otherwise applying for reimbursement for an unpaid judgment pursuant  
11 to RCW 43.31.605(1)(c) after the tenant defaults on a payment plan  
12 ordered pursuant to (c) of this subsection.

13 (vi) For the period extending one year beyond the expiration of  
14 the eviction moratorium, if a tenant demonstrates an ability to pay  
15 in order to reinstate the tenancy by means of disbursement through  
16 the landlord mitigation program account established within RCW  
17 43.31.605(1)(c):

18 (A) Any restrictions imposed under (d) of this subsection do not  
19 apply in determining if a tenant is eligible for reinstatement under  
20 this subsection (3); and

21 (B) Reimbursement on behalf of the tenant to the landlord under  
22 RCW 43.31.605(1)(c) may include up to three months of prospective  
23 rent to stabilize the tenancy as determined by the court.

24 (4) If a tenant seeks to stay a writ of restitution issued  
25 pursuant to this chapter, the court may issue an ex parte stay of the  
26 writ of restitution provided the tenant or tenant's attorney submits  
27 a declaration indicating good faith efforts were made to notify the  
28 other party or, if no efforts were made, why notice could not be  
29 provided prior to the application for an ex parte stay, and  
30 describing the immediate or irreparable harm that may result if an  
31 immediate stay is not granted. The court shall require service of the  
32 order and motion to stay the writ of restitution by personal  
33 delivery, mail, facsimile, or other means most likely to afford all  
34 parties notice of the court date.

35 (5) In all other cases the judgment may be enforced immediately.  
36 If a writ of restitution shall have been executed prior to judgment  
37 no further writ or execution for the premises shall be required.

38 (6) This section also applies if the writ of restitution is  
39 issued pursuant to a final judgment entered after a show cause  
40 hearing conducted in accordance with RCW 59.18.380.



1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 18.**    This act does not apply to assisted  
2 living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, to nursing homes  
3 licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, to adult family homes licensed  
4 under chapter 70.128 RCW, or to continuing care retirement  
5 communities registered under chapter 18.390 RCW.

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 19.**    RCW 59.18.375 (Forcible entry or detainer  
7 or unlawful detainer actions—Payment of rent into court registry—  
8 Writ of restitution—Notice) and 2008 c 75 s 2, 2006 c 51 s 2, & 1983  
9 c 264 s 13 are each repealed.

10       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 20.**    Sections 2 through 4 of this act  
11 supersede any other provisions within chapter 59.18 or 59.12 RCW, or  
12 chapter 59.20 RCW as applicable, that conflict with sections 2  
13 through 4 of this act.

14       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 21.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
16 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
17 effect immediately.

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