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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5219**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Carrell, Regala, Hargrove, Kline, Brandland, Swecker, Stevens, and King)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1       AN ACT Relating to housing for populations at risk of being  
2 homeless, including those suffering from mental illness, those with  
3 criminal backgrounds, and those who may have chemical or alcohol  
4 dependency issues; creating a new section; and providing an expiration  
5 date.

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

7       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) A focus group is established to examine  
8 the need to provide housing for individuals at risk of being homeless  
9 including, but not limited to, those suffering from mental illness,  
10 those with criminal backgrounds, and those who have chemical or alcohol  
11 dependency issues.   The focus group shall review and make  
12 recommendations regarding:

13       (a) Identification and removal of barriers to finding and  
14 maintaining affordable housing for individuals at risk of being  
15 homeless;

16       (b) Existing programs that provide housing assistance to at-risk  
17 populations and advisable methods of providing housing assistance in  
18 the future;

1 (c) Methods to encourage private landlords to provide housing to  
2 at-risk populations;

3 (d) Statutory changes to the residential landlord-tenant act; and  
4 (e) Quality controls to ensure housing standards for at-risk  
5 tenants.

6 (2) The focus group shall invite participation from:

7 (a) Legislative members from related committees in the senate and  
8 the house of representatives;

9 (b) State agencies or entities that deal with at-risk populations,  
10 including the department of corrections, the department of community,  
11 trade, and economic development, the department of social and health  
12 services, the department of veterans affairs, and the interagency  
13 council on homelessness;

14 (c) Counties;

15 (d) Cities;

16 (e) Crime victims;

17 (f) Community corrections officers;

18 (g) Multifamily housing and landlord associations;

19 (h) Tenant associations or organizations advocating on behalf of  
20 tenants and the homeless;

21 (i) Local law enforcement; and  
22 (j) Other interested groups as appropriate.

23 (3) The focus group shall present a report of its findings and  
24 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
25 legislature, including any proposed legislation, by November 15, 2009.

26 (4)(a) The focus group is authorized to use legislative facilities,  
27 and staff support must be provided by senate committee services and the  
28 house of representatives office of program research.

29 (b) Nonlegislative members of the focus group shall serve without  
30 compensation.

31 (c) Legislative members of the focus group may not be reimbursed  
32 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 for participation  
33 in the focus group.

34 (5) This section expires December 1, 2009.

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