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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1766

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Griffey, Davis, Senn, Dent, Callan, and Cheney)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a hope card program; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 7.105 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Washington state has been a national leader in adopting legal  
6 protections to prevent and respond to abuse, violence, harassment,  
7 stalking, neglect, and other threatening behaviors, through the  
8 enactment of different types of civil protection orders, which are  
9 intended to provide an efficient means to obtain protection against  
10 perpetrators of these harms. Protection orders are essential tools  
11 that can increase safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual  
12 assault, stalking, abuse of vulnerable adults, and unlawful  
13 harassment, by empowering them to obtain immediate protection for  
14 themselves without having to rely on the criminal legal system. From  
15 2018 through 2021, more than 83,000 full protection order cases were  
16 filed in Washington courts, with domestic violence protection order  
17 cases making up nearly 58 percent of that total.

18 (2) Washingtonians who receive protection orders, however, are  
19 often confronted by a difficult choice—always carry a paper copy of  
20 the order with them, an inconvenient option that could result in the  
21 document being damaged or lost, or risk not having access to proper

1 documentation should assistance from law enforcement or emergency  
2 services become necessary.

3 (3) Numerous other states including Oregon, Idaho, and Montana  
4 have successfully implemented a solution by establishing hope card  
5 programs. Hope cards are durable, laminated cards, similar in  
6 construction to a driver's license, that contain the vital  
7 information about a protection order that first responders need to  
8 quickly verify its existence.

9 (4) Establishing a hope card program in Washington will not only  
10 relieve protection order recipients of an unnecessary source of  
11 frustration and stress, but also increase the effectiveness of these  
12 crucial sources of safety and security for thousands of  
13 Washingtonians.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.105  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The administrative office of the courts shall develop a  
17 program for the issuance of protection order hope cards by superior  
18 and district courts. The administrative office of the courts shall  
19 develop the program in collaboration with the Washington state  
20 superior court judges' association, the Washington state district and  
21 municipal court judges' association, the Washington state association  
22 of county clerks, association of Washington superior court  
23 administrators, district and municipal court management association,  
24 and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and  
25 shall make reasonably feasible efforts to solicit and incorporate  
26 input from appropriate stakeholder groups, including representatives  
27 from victim advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies, and the  
28 department of licensing. The administrative office of the courts,  
29 together with the organizations and stakeholder groups specified in  
30 this subsection, shall explore the feasibility of providing  
31 information required in subsection (2) of this section in electronic  
32 format, including, but not limited to, a laminated card with a  
33 barcode.

34 (2) A hope card must be a durable, laminated or plastic card  
35 similar in size and material to a Washington driver's license and  
36 must contain, without limitations, the following:

37 (a) The restrained person's name, date of birth, sex, race, eye  
38 color, hair color, height, weight, and other distinguishing features;

1 (b) The protected person's name and date of birth and the names  
2 and dates of birth of any minor children protected under the order;  
3 and

4 (c) Information about the protection order including, but not  
5 limited to, the issuing court, the case number, the date of issuance  
6 and date of expiration of the order, and the relevant details of the  
7 order, including any locations from which the person is restrained.

8 (3) Commencing on July 1, 2024, a person who has been issued a  
9 valid full protection order may request a hope card from the clerk of  
10 the issuing court at the time the order is entered or at any time  
11 prior to the expiration of the order.

12 (4) A person requesting a hope card may not be charged a fee for  
13 the issuance of an original and one duplicate hope card.

14 (5) For the purposes of this section, "full protection order"  
15 means a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault  
16 protection order, a stalking protection order, a vulnerable adult  
17 protection order, or an antiharassment protection order, as defined  
18 in this chapter.

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