
HOUSE BILL 3324

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

1 AN ACT Relating to local unsheltered homeless housing plans;
2 amending RCW 43.185C.010; adding a new section to chapter 43.185C RCW;
3 and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that despite the
6 creation and implementation of state and local homeless housing and
7 assistance plans with the goal of reducing and ending homelessness, as
8 required by the homeless housing and assistance act, the annual
9 Washington homeless census continues to report unacceptable numbers of
10 unsheltered homeless individuals living on the streets in our
11 communities. Unsheltered homeless individuals experience great risk to
12 their personal health and safety and are vulnerable to substantial harm
13 and even death.

14 (2) Although the legislature recognizes the critical need to find
15 and execute long-term permanent housing solutions for homeless
16 individuals, the legislature also recognizes the eminent need to
17 provide for the immediate shelter of all unsheltered homeless
18 individuals living on the streets.

1 (3) It is the intent of the legislature to reaffirm the goals of
2 the homeless housing and assistance act to reduce homelessness by fifty
3 percent by July 1, 2015, and also to establish a new goal of providing
4 a minimum of immediate, short-term shelter for one hundred percent of
5 unsheltered homeless individuals, as reported by the Washington
6 homeless census.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Each local homeless housing task force must present an
10 unsheltered homeless housing plan to its local government's legislative
11 authority and to the department within ninety days of the effective
12 date of this act, and must present an updated plan annually thereafter
13 on a schedule to be determined by the department.

14 (2) The unsheltered homeless housing plan must consist of:

15 (a) Recommended strategies and a recommended detailed action plan
16 to accomplish the goal of shelter for one hundred percent of
17 unsheltered homeless individuals;

18 (b) Estimated costs for execution of the plan and achievement of
19 the plan's goal; and

20 (c) Recommended interim assistance strategies, such as the
21 provision of interim survival mechanisms and other assistance to be
22 provided to unsheltered homeless individuals until they can be
23 adequately sheltered.

24 (3) Until and unless the Washington homeless census reports that
25 the number of unsheltered homeless individuals within the jurisdiction
26 of a local government is equal to or less than ten percent of the
27 number of unsheltered homeless individuals reported in the 2008
28 Washington homeless census, the priority for projects to be funded from
29 the local government's share of the surcharges in RCW 36.22.179 and
30 36.22.1791 must be given to projects and programs that are intended to
31 directly accomplish the unsheltered homeless housing goal and are
32 representative of recommended strategies outlined in the local
33 unsheltered homeless housing plan.

34 (4) The department shall include a summary of local jurisdiction
35 unsheltered homeless housing plans and reports of plan accomplishments
36 in its annually updated state homeless housing strategic plan as
37 described under RCW 43.185C.040.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.185C.010 and 2007 c 427 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
4 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
6 economic development.

7 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of community,
8 trade, and economic development.

9 (3) "Homeless person" means an individual living outside or in a
10 building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal
11 right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing
12 program which may include a transitional and supportive housing program
13 if habitation time limits exist. This definition includes substance
14 abusers, people with mental illness, and sex offenders who are
15 homeless.

16 (4) "Washington homeless census" means an annual statewide census
17 conducted as a collaborative effort by towns, cities, counties,
18 community-based organizations, and state agencies, with the technical
19 support and coordination of the department, to count and collect data
20 on all homeless individuals in Washington.

21 (5) "Home security fund account" means the state treasury account
22 receiving the state's portion of income from revenue from the sources
23 established by RCW 36.22.179, RCW 36.22.1791, and all other sources
24 directed to the homeless housing and assistance program.

25 (6) "Homeless housing grant program" means the vehicle by which
26 competitive grants are awarded by the department, utilizing moneys from
27 the (~~homeless housing~~) home security fund account, to local
28 governments for programs directly related to housing homeless
29 individuals and families, addressing the root causes of homelessness,
30 preventing homelessness, collecting data on homeless individuals, and
31 other efforts directly related to housing homeless persons.

32 (7) "Local government" means a county government in the state of
33 Washington or a city government, if the legislative authority of the
34 city affirmatively elects to accept the responsibility for housing
35 homeless persons within its borders.

36 (8) "Housing continuum" means the progression of individuals along
37 a housing-focused continuum with homelessness at one end and
38 homeownership at the other.

1 (9) "Local homeless housing task force" means a voluntary local
2 committee created to advise a local government on the creation of a
3 local homeless housing plan and participate in a local homeless housing
4 program. It must include a representative of the county, a
5 representative of the largest city located within the county, at least
6 one homeless or formerly homeless person, such other members as may be
7 required to maintain eligibility for federal funding related to housing
8 programs and services and if feasible, a representative of a private
9 nonprofit organization with experience in low-income housing.

10 (10) "Long-term private or public housing" means subsidized and
11 unsubsidized rental or owner-occupied housing in which there is no
12 established time limit for habitation of less than two years.

13 (11) "Interagency council on homelessness" means a committee
14 appointed by the governor and consisting of, at least, policy level
15 representatives of the following entities: (a) The department of
16 community, trade, and economic development; (b) the department of
17 corrections; (c) the department of social and health services; (d) the
18 department of veterans affairs; and (e) the department of health.

19 (12) "Performance measurement" means the process of comparing
20 specific measures of success against ultimate and interim goals.

21 (13) "Community action agency" means a nonprofit private or public
22 organization established under the economic opportunity act of 1964.

23 (14) "Housing authority" means any of the public corporations
24 created by chapter 35.82 RCW.

25 (15) "Homeless housing program" means the program authorized under
26 this chapter as administered by the department at the state level and
27 by the local government or its designated subcontractor at the local
28 level.

29 (16) "Homeless housing plan" means the ten-year plan developed by
30 the county or other local government to address housing for homeless
31 persons.

32 (17) "Homeless housing strategic plan" means the ten-year plan
33 developed by the department, in consultation with the interagency
34 council on homelessness and the affordable housing advisory board.

35 (18) "Washington homeless client management information system"
36 means a database of information about homeless individuals in the state
37 used to coordinate resources to assist homeless clients to obtain and

1 retain housing and reach greater levels of self-sufficiency or economic
2 independence when appropriate, depending upon their individual
3 situations.

4 (19) "Unsheltered homeless individual" means an individual living
5 outside or in a building not intended for human habitation or in which
6 the individual has no legal right to occupy.

7 (20) "Unsheltered homeless housing plan" means a local plan to
8 house all unsheltered homeless individuals as described in section 2 of
9 this act.

10 (21) "Shelter" means any housing that a person has a legal right or
11 has received permission to occupy and may include short-term,
12 emergency, interim, or temporary housing.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The code reviser shall alphabetize and
14 renumber the definitions in RCW 43.185C.010.

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