

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1922

Chapter 316, Laws of 2007

60th Legislature
2007 Regular Session

INDEPENDENT YOUTH HOUSING PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/22/07

Passed by the House April 14, 2007
Yeas 65 Nays 25

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 10, 2007
Yeas 33 Nays 12

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 4, 2007, 3:18 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1922** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 7, 2007

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1922

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Pedersen, Pettigrew, Miloscia, McIntire, Walsh, Kagi, Appleton, Kenney, Hasegawa and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an independent youth housing program;
2 adding new sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that providing
5 needy youth aging out of the state dependency system with safe and
6 viable options for housing to avoid homelessness confers a valuable
7 benefit on the public that is intended to improve public health,
8 safety, and welfare.

9 (2) It is the goal of this state to:

10 (a) Ensure that all youth aging out of the state dependency system
11 have access to a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a healthy
12 safe environment to prevent such young people from experiencing
13 homelessness; and

14 (b) Reduce each year the percentage of young people eligible for
15 state assistance upon aging out of the state dependency system.

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

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

5 (2) "Eligible youth" means an individual who:

6 (a) On or after September 1, 2006, is at least eighteen, was a
7 dependent of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW in the month before his
8 or her eighteenth birthday, and has not yet reached the age of
9 twenty-three;

10 (b) Except as provided in section 4(2)(a) of this act, has a total
11 income from all sources, except for temporary sources that include, but
12 are not limited to, overtime wages, bonuses, or short-term temporary
13 assignments, that does not exceed fifty percent of the area median
14 income;

15 (c) Is not receiving services under RCW 74.13.031(10)(b);

16 (d) Complies with other eligibility requirements the department may
17 establish.

18 (3) "Fair market rent" means the fair market rent in each county of
19 the state, as determined by the United States department of housing and
20 urban development.

21 (4) "Independent housing" means a housing unit that is not owned by
22 or located within the home of the eligible youth's biological parents
23 or any of the eligible youth's former foster care families or
24 dependency guardians. "Independent housing" may include a unit in a
25 transitional or other supportive housing facility.

26 (5) "Individual development account" or "account" means an account
27 established by contract between a low-income individual and a
28 sponsoring organization for the benefit of the low-income individual
29 and funded through periodic contributions by the low-income individual
30 that are matched with contributions by or through the sponsoring
31 organization.

32 (6) "Subcontractor organization" means an eligible organization
33 described under RCW 43.185A.040 that contracts with the department to
34 administer the independent youth housing program.

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

37 (1) The independent youth housing program is created in the

1 department to provide housing stipends to eligible youth to be used for
2 independent housing. In developing a plan for the design,
3 implementation, and operation of the independent youth housing program,
4 the department shall:

5 (a) Adopt policies, requirements, and procedures necessary to
6 administer the program;

7 (b) Contract with one or more eligible organizations described
8 under RCW 43.185A.040 to provide services and conduct administrative
9 activities as described in subsection (3) of this section;

10 (c) Establish eligibility criteria for youth to participate in the
11 independent youth housing program, giving priority to youth who have
12 been dependents of the state for at least one year;

13 (d) Refer interested youth to the designated subcontractor
14 organization administering the program in the area in which the youth
15 intends to reside;

16 (e) Develop a method for determining the amount of the housing
17 stipend, first and last month's rent, and security deposit, where
18 applicable, to be dedicated to participating youth. The method for
19 determining a housing stipend must take into account a youth's age, the
20 youth's total income from all sources, the fair market rent for the
21 area in which the youth lives or intends to live, and a variety of
22 possible living situations for the youth. The amount of housing
23 stipends must be adjusted, by a method and formula established by the
24 department, to promote the successful transition for youth to complete
25 housing self-sufficiency over time;

26 (f) Ensure that the independent youth housing program is integrated
27 and aligned with other state rental assistance and case management
28 programs operated by the department, as well as case management and
29 supportive services programs, including the independent living program,
30 the transitional living program, and other related programs offered by
31 the department of social and health services; and

32 (g) Consult with the department of social and health services and
33 other stakeholders involved with dependent youth, homeless youth, and
34 homeless young adults, as appropriate.

35 (2) The department of social and health services shall collaborate
36 with the department in implementing and operating the independent youth
37 housing program including, but not limited to, the following:

1 (a) Refer potential eligible youth to the department before the
2 youth's eighteenth birthday, if feasible, to include an indication, if
3 known, of where the youth plans to reside after aging out of foster
4 care;

5 (b) Provide information to all youth aged fifteen or older, who are
6 dependents of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW, about the independent
7 youth housing program, encouraging dependents nearing their eighteenth
8 birthday to consider applying for enrollment in the program;

9 (c) Encourage organizations participating in the independent living
10 program and the transitional living program to collaborate with
11 independent youth housing program providers whenever possible to
12 capitalize on resources and provide the greatest amount and variety of
13 services to eligible youth;

14 (d) Annually provide to the department data reflecting changes in
15 the percentage of youth aging out of the state dependency system each
16 year who are eligible for state assistance, as well as any other data
17 and performance measures that may assist the department to measure
18 program success; and

19 (e) Annually, beginning by December 31, 2007, provide to the
20 appropriate committees of the legislature and the interagency council
21 on homelessness as described under RCW 43.185C.170 recommendations of
22 strategies to reach the goals described in section 5(2)(g) of this act.

23 (3) Under the independent youth housing program, subcontractor
24 organizations shall:

25 (a) Use moneys awarded to the organizations for housing stipends,
26 security deposits, first and last month's rent stipends, case
27 management program costs, and administrative costs;

28 (i) Administrative costs for each subcontractor organization may
29 not exceed twelve percent of the estimated total annual grant amount to
30 the subcontractor organization;

31 (ii) All housing stipends must be payable only to a landlord or
32 housing manager of any type of independent housing;

33 (b) Enroll eligible youth who are referred by the department and
34 who choose to reside in their assigned service area;

35 (c) Enter eligible youth program participants into the homeless
36 client management information system as described in RCW 43.185C.180;

37 (d) Monitor participating youth's housing status;

1 (e) Evaluate participating youth's eligibility and compliance with
2 department policies and procedures at least twice a year;

3 (f) Assist participating youth to develop or update an independent
4 living plan focused on obtaining and retaining independent housing or
5 collaborate with a case manager with whom the youth is already involved
6 to ensure that the youth has an independent living plan;

7 (g) Educate participating youth on tenant rights and
8 responsibilities;

9 (h) Provide support to participating youth in the form of general
10 case management and information and referral services, when necessary,
11 or collaborate with a case manager with whom the youth is already
12 involved to ensure that the youth is receiving the case management and
13 information and referral services needed;

14 (i) Connect participating youth, when possible, with individual
15 development account programs, other financial literacy programs, and
16 other programs that are designed to help young people acquire economic
17 independence and self-sufficiency, or collaborate with a case manager
18 with whom the youth is already involved to ensure that the youth is
19 receiving information and referrals to these programs, when
20 appropriate;

21 (j) Submit expenditure and performance reports, including
22 information related to the performance measures in section 5 of this
23 act, to the department on a time schedule determined by the department;
24 and

25 (k) Provide recommendations to the department regarding program
26 improvements and strategies that might assist the state to reach its
27 goals as described in section 5(2)(g) of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) An eligible youth participating in the independent youth
31 housing program must:

32 (a) Sign a program compliance agreement stating that the youth
33 agrees to:

34 (i) Timely pay his or her portion of the independent housing cost;

35 (ii) Comply with an independent living plan; and

36 (iii) Comply with other program requirements and policies the
37 department may establish; and

1 (b) Maintain his or her status as an eligible youth, except as
2 provided in subsection (2) of this section.

3 (2) The department shall establish policies and procedures to allow
4 the youth to remain in the program and continue to receive a housing
5 stipend if the youth's total income exceeds fifty percent of the area
6 median income during the course of his or her participation in the
7 program. The policies must require the youth to:

8 (a) Participate in the individual development account program
9 established under RCW 43.31.460 and invest a portion, to be determined
10 by the department, of his or her income that exceeds fifty percent of
11 the area median income in an individual development account; or

12 (b) If the youth is unable to participate in the individual
13 development account program due to the program's capacity limits or
14 eligibility requirements, participate in an alternate supervised
15 savings program approved by the department, as long as the youth
16 qualifies for and may participate in this savings program.

17 (3) An eligible youth may participate in the independent youth
18 housing program for any duration of time and may apply to enroll in the
19 program with the department at any time.

20 (4)(a) A youth may be terminated from the independent youth housing
21 program for a violation of department policies.

22 (b) Youth who are terminated from the program may apply to the
23 department for reenrollment in the program through a procedure to be
24 developed by the department. The department shall establish criteria
25 to evaluate a reenrollment application and may accept or deny a
26 reenrollment application based on the department's evaluation.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 Beginning in 2007, the department must annually review and report
30 on the performance of subcontractor organizations participating in the
31 independent youth housing program, as well as the performance of the
32 program as a whole.

33 (1) Reporting should be within the context of the state homeless
34 housing strategic plan under RCW 43.185C.040 and any other relevant
35 state or local homeless or affordable housing plans. The outcomes of
36 the independent youth housing program must be included in the

1 measurement of any performance measures described in chapter 43.185C
2 RCW.

3 (2) The independent youth housing program report must include, at
4 a minimum, an update on the following program performance measures, as
5 well as any other performance measures the department may establish,
6 for enrolled youth in consultation with the department of social and
7 health services, to be measured statewide and by county:

8 (a) Increases in housing stability;

9 (b) Increases in economic self-sufficiency;

10 (c) Increases in independent living skills;

11 (d) Increases in education and job training attainment;

12 (e) Decreases in the use of all state-funded services over time;

13 (f) Decreases in the percentage of youth aging out of the state
14 dependency system each year who are eligible for state assistance as
15 reported to the department by the department of social and health
16 services; and

17 (g) Recommendations to the legislature and to the interagency
18 council on homelessness as described under RCW 43.185C.170 on program
19 improvements and on departmental strategies that might assist the state
20 to reach its goals of:

21 (i) Ensuring that all youth aging out of the state dependency
22 system have access to a decent, appropriate, and affordable home in a
23 healthy safe environment to prevent such youth from experiencing
24 homelessness; and

25 (ii) Reducing each year the percentage of young people eligible for
26 state assistance upon aging out of the state dependency system.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 This act does not create:

30 (1) An entitlement to services;

31 (2) Judicial authority to (a) extend the jurisdiction of juvenile
32 court in a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW to a youth who has
33 reached the age of eighteen or (b) order the provision of services to
34 the youth; or

35 (3) A private right of action or claim on the part of any
36 individual, entity, or agency against the department, the department of
37 social and health services, or any contractor of the departments.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The independent youth housing account is created in the state
4 treasury. All revenue directed to the independent youth housing
5 program must be deposited into this account. Moneys in the account may
6 be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may
7 only be used for the independent youth housing program as described in
8 section 3 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Beginning in September 2008, the Washington
10 state institute for public policy shall conduct a study measuring the
11 outcomes for youth who are participating or who have participated in
12 the independent youth housing program created in section 3 of this act.
13 The institute shall issue a report containing its preliminary findings
14 to the legislature by December 1, 2009, and a final report by December
15 1, 2010.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
17 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
18 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
19 void.

Passed by the House April 14, 2007.

Passed by the Senate April 10, 2007.

Approved by the Governor May 4, 2007.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 2007.