

---

SENATE BILL 6365

---

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Frockt, McAuliffe, O'Ban, Fain, Litzow, Pedersen, Darneille, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Tom, Liias, and Cleveland

Read first time 01/22/14. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program to provide educational  
2 stability for homeless children; adding a new section to chapter  
3 43.185C RCW; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and  
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The department, in consultation with the office of the  
9 superintendent of public instruction, must administer a two-year pilot  
10 program that links homeless children and their families with stable  
11 housing located in the homeless student's school district. The goal of  
12 the pilot program is to provide educational stability for homeless  
13 children by promoting housing stability for homeless families while  
14 reducing transportation costs for school districts.

15 (2) The department, working with the office of the superintendent  
16 of public instruction, must develop a competitive grant process to make  
17 a one-time grant award of three hundred thousand dollars to a school  
18 district partnered with an eligible organization. For the purposes of  
19 this subsection, "eligible organization" means any local government,

1 local housing authority, regional support network established under  
2 chapter 71.24 RCW, nonprofit community or neighborhood-based  
3 organization, federally recognized Indian tribe in the state of  
4 Washington, or regional or statewide nonprofit housing assistance  
5 organization.

6 (3) In determining which school district will receive the grant  
7 award, preference must be given to rural school districts and school  
8 districts east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range.

9 (4) Activities eligible for assistance under this pilot program  
10 include:

11 (a) Direct rental assistance, which includes security or utility  
12 deposits, first and last month's rent assistance, rental application  
13 fees, and eligible moving expenses to be determined by the department;

14 (b) Utility assistance and gas assistance for families with  
15 vehicles;

16 (c) Shelter and related services for the homeless; and

17 (d) Employment and educational support for the family so long as  
18 the assistance provided facilitates the family continuing to live in  
19 the school district.

20 (5) All recipients of funds from the pilot program must be from  
21 very low-income households. For the purposes of this subsection, "very  
22 low-income household" means a family or unrelated persons living  
23 together whose adjusted income is less than fifty percent of the median  
24 family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the  
25 pilot program is located.

26 (6)(a) The grantee is to track the number of homeless children in  
27 the school district, the number of homeless children served by the  
28 grant, the number of households served by the grant, the types of  
29 services offered, and the educational transportation costs of the  
30 children. This information, along with the educational transportation  
31 costs of homeless children prior to the pilot program, must be reported  
32 to the department, along with any additional information requested by  
33 the department, at the conclusion of the pilot program.

34 (b) At the conclusion of the pilot program, the department must  
35 compile the information provided by the grantee and report to the  
36 legislature the findings of the grantee, the housing stability of the  
37 homeless families, whether the school district's transportation costs

1 were reduced during the program period, and any related policy  
2 recommendations.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of three hundred thousand dollars,  
4 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
5 year ending June 30, 2014, from the general fund to the department of  
6 commerce for the purposes of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
8 section 1 of this act, referencing section 1 of this act by bill or  
9 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2014, in  
10 the omnibus appropriations act, section 1 of this act is null and void.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires January 15, 2017.

--- END ---