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**HOUSE BILL 2282**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Walsh, Van Werven, Appleton, Gildon, Chambers, Griffey, Young, Eslick, Irwin, Corry, Dent, and Mosbrucker

Prefiled 12/31/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a grant program for converting unused  
2 public buildings to housing for homeless persons; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 43.330 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The public building conversion grant program is created in  
8 the department. The purpose of this program is to encourage counties  
9 to convert unused, publicly owned buildings into housing for homeless  
10 persons. The department shall manage, oversee, and evaluate public  
11 building conversion grant program applications and shall, subject to  
12 appropriation, award grants annually. The department may establish  
13 criteria or guidelines to guide counties in the application process.  
14 Only counties with a population of one hundred thousand or less are  
15 eligible to apply to the department for public building conversion  
16 grants.

17 (2) Counties applying for public building conversion grants must  
18 submit an inventory of unused public buildings to the department  
19 prior to April 1, 2020. To remain eligible for public building  
20 conversion grants, counties must update and resubmit the inventory to  
21 the department on a quarterly basis.

1 (3) Public building conversion grants may be used only for costs  
2 related to rehabilitation, retrofitting, and conversion of unused,  
3 publicly owned buildings for use as housing for homeless persons.  
4 Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, rehabilitation of  
5 older buildings and conversion of commercial buildings to residential  
6 use or transitional housing.

7 (4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, as a  
8 condition of receiving public building conversion grants, a county  
9 must certify to the department that it prohibits the illegal  
10 possession of controlled substances on the premises or grounds of any  
11 building that is converted to housing for homeless persons with  
12 grants awarded pursuant to this section.

13 (b) A county is not required to prohibit the illegal possession  
14 of controlled substances on the premises or grounds of temporary  
15 shelters providing housing during severe weather events.

16 (5) Public building conversion grants may not be used for  
17 staffing or maintaining buildings converted to housing for the  
18 homeless. Costs for staffing and maintenance must be borne by the  
19 county.

20 (6) The department shall adopt policies to ensure that the  
21 state's interest will be protected upon the sale or change of use of  
22 projects financed in whole or in part under this section, or upon a  
23 county's failure to comply with subsection (4) of this section or any  
24 other applicable conditions of grant funding. These policies may  
25 include, but are not limited to, requiring repayment of the grant  
26 upon the sale or change of use of the project or upon a county's  
27 failure to comply with the conditions of grant funding.

28 (7) For purposes of this section, "homeless person" has the same  
29 meaning as in RCW 43.185C.010.

30 (8) This section expires December 31, 2021.

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