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**SENATE BILL 6459**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Fortunato

1 AN ACT Relating to compassionate and effective strategies to  
2 address the homelessness crisis; adding a new section to chapter  
3 36.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 9A.84 RCW; creating a new  
4 section; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Every county and each city with a population over fifty  
9 thousand must establish and operate at least one emergency overnight  
10 shelter site in its respective jurisdiction. Counties and each  
11 eligible city with the county's geographic boundary must coordinate  
12 to ensure that there are enough cumulative shelter beds to  
13 accommodate, at a minimum, the sheltered and unsheltered portions of  
14 the county's most recent point-in-time homeless count. Each shelter  
15 must prohibit the possession and use of alcohol and unprescribed  
16 drugs on its premises, and provision must be made for a police  
17 presence during the shelter's operating hours. Counties and each  
18 eligible city shall require and make available employment, mental  
19 health, and drug counseling services at each shelter location.

20 (2) Any shelter established under this section is eligible for  
21 assistance under the housing trust fund pursuant to RCW 43.185.050.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 9A.84  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) A person is guilty of unauthorized camping if he or she camps  
4 or stores personal property, including camp paraphernalia, on any  
5 publicly owned or maintained land, whether improved or unimproved,  
6 unless the land has been specifically designated by the controlling  
7 jurisdiction as an area allowing recreational camping.

8        (a) "Camp paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, tents,  
9 tarps, cots, beds, hammocks, mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags,  
10 cooking equipment, and other items commonly associated with sleeping  
11 or remaining outdoors overnight.

12        (b) "Camping" means the erection of a tent or other temporary  
13 shelter or to assemble personal property on public land that to a  
14 reasonable person indicates a person has remained or intends to  
15 remain on the land overnight without proper permits or lawful  
16 authority or when the land is not open to the public.

17        (2) Unauthorized camping is a misdemeanor.

18        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act shall be known and cited as the  
19 serious homelessness engagement leads to effective results (SHELTER)  
20 act.

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