
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6475

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Hasegawa, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the identification assistance and
2 support program to assist individuals experiencing homelessness;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.185C RCW; creating a new section;
4 and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the lack of
7 valid identification can be a barrier for exiting homelessness and
8 achieving independence, as possession of valid identification is a
9 prerequisite to securing employment, accessing housing, higher
10 education, military service, and applying for many federally funded
11 services. The legislature recognizes that procuring documentation to
12 prove identity can be expensive, time consuming, and requiring
13 expertise to navigate technical systems. The legislature intends to
14 create a program to aid individuals in collecting documentation of
15 their identity to procure a valid form of identification more
16 quickly. The legislature intends to measure the efficacy of the
17 project by studying its impact on decreasing time spent unemployed
18 and experiencing homelessness, among other factors.

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

1 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, the department shall establish an identification
3 assistance and support program to assist homeless persons in
4 collecting documentation and procuring an identicard issued by the
5 department of licensing. This program shall be implemented beginning
6 July 1, 2021.

7 (2) The department shall contract for operation of the
8 identification assistance and support program in one county west of
9 the crest of the Cascade mountain range with a population of one
10 million or more and one county east of the crest of the Cascade
11 mountain range with a population of five hundred thousand or more. If
12 no outside entity or entities are available to operate the program or
13 specific parts of the program, the department may operate the program
14 or the specific parts that are not operated by an outside entity.

15 (3) The department shall evaluate the program and compile data on
16 the number of persons served, the number of persons who were
17 subsequently able to procure identicards, any reasons volunteered by
18 persons for why they need identicards, and other information as
19 available including, but not limited to, rates of employment and
20 housing status. By November 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the
21 department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
22 legislature and the governor summarizing the department's findings.

23 (4) The department and the department of licensing may adopt
24 rules, as necessary, to carry out their duties under this program.

25 (5) For the purpose of this section, "identicard" means the
26 department of licensing identicard described in RCW 46.20.117.

27 (6) This section expires June 30, 2024.

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