
SENATE BILL 6475

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/17/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the identification assistance and
2 support pilot program to assist individuals experiencing homelessness
3 with locating the documentation necessary to qualify for certain
4 forms of identification; adding a new chapter to Title 13 RCW;
5 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2021, the department
2 shall establish an identification assistance and support pilot
3 program to provide certain services to eligible participants.

4 (2) The department shall contract for operation of the
5 identification assistance and support pilot program under subsection
6 4 of this section in one county west of the crest of the Cascade
7 mountain range with a population of one million or more and one
8 county east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range with a
9 population of five hundred thousand or more.

10 (3) Eligibility for the program shall be limited to homeless
11 persons as defined under section 3 of this act who lacks valid
12 identification.

13 (4) The department may contract with an outside entity or
14 entities to operate the identification assistance and support pilot
15 program. If no outside entity or entities are available to operate
16 the program or specific parts of the program, the department may
17 operate the program or the specific parts that are not operated by an
18 outside entity.

19 (5) The identification assistance and support pilot program
20 established in this chapter is subject to the availability of funds
21 appropriated for this specific purpose.

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context clearly requires
24 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
25 chapter.

26 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

27 (2) "Homeless person" has the same definition as RCW
28 43.185C.010.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall evaluate the program
30 including providing data on the number of persons served, the number
31 of persons who were subsequently able to procure valid
32 identification, any reasons volunteered by persons for why they need
33 valid identification, and other information as available including,
34 but not limited to, rates of employment and housing status. By
35 November 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, and in compliance with RCW
36 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to the legislature and
37 governor summarizing the department's findings.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department may adopt rules, as
2 necessary, to carry out its duties under this program.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 13 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of
6 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
7 provided by June 30, 2021, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
8 act is null and void.

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