

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5815

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**As Passed House:**

March 2, 2022

**Title:** An act relating to implementing an identicard program to provide individuals a Washington state-issued identicard.

**Brief Description:** Implementing an identicard program to provide individuals a Washington state-issued identicard.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Saldaña, Hasegawa, Keiser, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Trudeau and Wilson, C.).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/25/22, 2/28/22 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/2/22, 94-3.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill**

- Creates a program in the Department of Licensing to provide certain homeless individuals with a taxpayer-funded original or renewal identicard.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 28 members: Representatives Fey, Chair; Bronoske, 2nd Vice Chair; Ramos, 2nd Vice Chair; Barkis, Ranking Minority Member; Eslick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Robertson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Volz, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berry, Chapman, Dent, Donaghy, Duerr, Entenman, Goehner, Griffey, Hackney, Klicker, McCaslin, Orcutt, Paul, Ramel, Riccelli, Slatter, Sutherland, Taylor, Valdez, Walsh and Wicks.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Staff:** Michael Hirsch (786-7195).

**Background:**

*Identicards.*

An identicard is a Washington identification card issued by the Department of Licensing (DOL) and is valid for up to either six or eight years. The DOL must issue an identicard, containing a picture, to any applicant, provided the applicant:

- does not hold a valid Washington driver's license;
- proves the applicant's identity; and
- pays the required fee.

An identicard is distinctly designed so it is not confused with an official driver license, and it generally expires on the sixth or eighth anniversary of the applicant's birth date after issuance. An applicant may renew an identicard by personally appearing at a DOL office, by mail, or by electronic commerce.

An at-cost identicard, based on the production costs rather than the usual \$72 fee for an eight-year identicard, can be provided if the applicant is:

- under the age of 25 and does not have a permanent residence address;
- receiving public assistance; or
- being discharged from certain state or local juvenile facilities.

*Proof of Identity.*

Generally, to meet the proof of identity requirement when applying for an identicard, an applicant must display or provide the DOL with at least one of the following pieces of valid identifying documentation that contains the signature and photograph of the applicant:

- a valid or recently expired driver's license or instruction permit;
- a Washington identicard or an identification card issued by another state;
- an identification card issued by the United States, a state, or an agency of either the United States or a state;
- a military identification card;
- a United States passport; or
- an Immigration and Naturalization Service form.

*Homeless Person.*

A homeless person is defined as an individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include a transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist.

**Summary of Bill:**

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the DOL,

working in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, must create and implement an identicard program to provide homeless individuals a new or renewal identicard at no cost to the individual. Homeless individuals are eligible if they:

- show proof of identity;
- are expected to reside in Washington;
- meet the definition of a homeless person;
- do not have a current and valid state-issued identicard or driver's license; and
- have not previously received an identicard under this program.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on January 1, 2023.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) People experiencing homelessness often have their belongings, including identification, lost or stolen. Identification is a barrier for people experiencing homelessness to get into housing or apply for government assistance. This bill helps those already overcoming challenges to get back onto their feet. Identicards make it easier for people to restart their productive lives and reduce costs to taxpayers. Identicards help people experiencing homelessness obtain a bank account and cash checks.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Laura Ellsworth, Council for the Homeless; Ron Rasmussen, Hand Up Project; and Joe Adamack, Northwest Credit Union Association.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.