

---

**SENATE BILL 5607**

---

**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators L. Wilson, Braun, Hasegawa, Rolfes, Wellman, and J. Wilson

Prefiled 12/29/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Housing & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to including individuals in jails and hospitals  
2 who were homeless before entering such facilities in the state's  
3 annual homeless census; amending RCW 43.185C.030; and creating a new  
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds the official annual  
7 point-in-time count of homeless individuals in Washington state  
8 significantly understates the extent of Washington's homelessness  
9 problem by excluding individuals who are in jail or in a hospital on  
10 the day of the count but were homeless before entering the facility.  
11 In Thurston county, which voluntarily collects this information, the  
12 most recent count found that individuals in jails and hospitals who  
13 were homeless before entering such facilities would have increased  
14 the county's official homeless census by almost 40 percent.

15 To ensure more accurate information for policymakers and enable  
16 better informed policy responses, it is the intent of the legislature  
17 with this act to require each county to include individuals in jails  
18 and hospitals who were homeless before entering such facilities in  
19 its annual homelessness point-in-time count and report.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185C.030 and 2018 c 85 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The department shall annually conduct a Washington homeless  
4 census or count consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.185C.180.  
5 The census shall make every effort to count all homeless individuals  
6 living outdoors, in shelters, and in transitional housing,  
7 coordinated, when reasonably feasible, with already existing homeless  
8 census projects including those funded in part by the United States  
9 department of housing and urban development under the McKinney-Vento  
10 homeless assistance program. In addition, the census shall make every  
11 effort to count individuals who are currently admitted into hospitals  
12 or incarcerated in city or county jails who had no permanent address  
13 at the time of admission. The department shall determine, in  
14 consultation with local governments, the data to be collected. Data  
15 on subpopulations and other characteristics of the homeless must, at  
16 a minimum, be consistent with the United States department of housing  
17 and urban development's point-in-time requirements. Data and  
18 information collected about individuals who are currently admitted  
19 into hospitals or incarcerated in city or county jails and had no  
20 permanent address at the time of admission are not required to be  
21 submitted to the United States department of urban housing and  
22 development to ensure uniformity of information across states.

23       (2) All personal information collected in the census is  
24 confidential, and the department and each local government shall take  
25 all necessary steps to protect the identity and confidentiality of  
26 each person counted.

27       (3) The department and each local government are prohibited from  
28 disclosing any personally identifying information about any homeless  
29 individual when there is reason to believe or evidence indicating  
30 that the homeless individual is an adult or minor victim of domestic  
31 violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or is the  
32 parent or guardian of a child victim of domestic violence, dating  
33 violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or revealing other  
34 confidential information regarding HIV/AIDS status, as found in RCW  
35 70.02.220. The department and each local government shall not ask any  
36 homeless housing provider to disclose personally identifying  
37 information about any homeless individuals when the providers  
38 implementing those programs have reason to believe or evidence  
39 indicating that those clients are adult or minor victims of domestic  
40 violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or are the

1 parents or guardians of child victims of domestic violence, dating  
2 violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Summary data for the  
3 provider's facility or program may be substituted.

4 (4) The Washington homeless census shall be conducted annually on  
5 a schedule created by the department. The department shall make  
6 summary data by county available to the public each year. This data,  
7 and its analysis, shall be included in the department's annual  
8 updated homeless housing program strategic plan.

9 (5) Based on the annual census and provider information from the  
10 local government plans, the department shall, by the end of year  
11 four, implement an online information and referral system to enable  
12 local governments and providers to identify available housing for a  
13 homeless person. The department shall work with local governments and  
14 their providers to develop a capacity for continuous case management  
15 to assist homeless persons.

16 (6) By the end of year four, the department shall implement an  
17 organizational quality management system.

--- END ---