
SENATE BILL 5662

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Kuderer and Trudeau; by request of Office of the Governor
Prefiled 01/05/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to intergovernmental coordination to address
2 transitioning persons encamped on state public rights-of-way to
3 permanent housing solutions; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A
4 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.185C RCW; and creating a new
5 section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that many
8 individuals experience homelessness as a result of a lack of
9 available and affordable housing, increasing rents, insufficient
10 income, complex and long-term behavioral health conditions, or
11 disabilities, or as a result of domestic violence. Every night
12 thousands of Washingtonians go to sleep in places not meant for human
13 habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, and
14 spaces along the public rights-of-way. More than 1,750 unsanctioned
15 encampments exist on public rights-of-way managed by state agencies.
16 Public right-of-way encampments present increasing concerns for the
17 health and safety of those encamped in this space, the public, and
18 those workers who are responsible to maintain and improve public
19 lands.

20 (2) (a) The legislature intends that persons experiencing
21 homelessness be treated with dignity, care, and compassion. The

1 legislature recognizes that the primary drivers of homelessness stem
2 from a lack of investment in affordable housing, behavioral health,
3 and other supports that provide economic stability.

4 (b) Furthermore, the legislature intends that local jurisdictions
5 and providers engage persons experiencing homelessness with teams of
6 multidisciplinary experts focused on trauma-informed care and
7 provision of services with the goal of transitioning persons
8 experiencing homelessness into permanent housing solutions. The
9 legislature further intends that every effort must be made to avoid
10 furthering existing trauma to persons experiencing homelessness by
11 causing displacement that does not result in a transition to
12 permanent housing. To that end, the legislature intends that a
13 multidisciplinary team within state government be established to
14 coordinate across state agencies, and collaborate with local
15 governments, nonprofit organizations, and persons encamped on state
16 rights-of-way to find housing solutions.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) There is created the office of intergovernmental coordination
20 on public right-of-way homeless encampments within the department.

21 (2) Activities of the office must be carried out by a director
22 and supervised by the secretary of the department or his or her
23 designee.

24 (3) The office is responsible for leading efforts under this
25 section to coordinate the spectrum of ongoing and future funding,
26 policy, and practice efforts related to reducing the number of
27 persons in unsanctioned encampments on state public rights-of-way.
28 This includes coordination across state agencies, through local
29 governments, and with persons in unsanctioned encampments on state
30 public rights-of-way with the goal of reducing the number of encamped
31 persons through transition to a permanent housing solution so that
32 the encampment is closed with the site either restored to original
33 conditions or preserved for future use.

34 (4) The office shall establish:

35 (a) Regional coordination teams charged with state agency, local
36 government, and nonprofit organization collaboration on identifying
37 or creating solutions that bring persons encamped on public rights-
38 of-way into permanent housing to include traditional and
39 nontraditional housing options. Collaboration partners will provide

1 regional knowledge and support to address specific and unique
2 regional needs. Collaboration partners may include the health care
3 authority, the health benefit exchange, the department of health, the
4 department of transportation, the department of ecology, the
5 department of commerce, the department of veterans' affairs, tribal
6 authorities, counties and cities, and private not-for-profit
7 agencies;

8 (b) Regional outreach teams charged with outreach with the
9 homeless population. Each team will include state, local, and private
10 partners in addition to a core team from the department. Outreach
11 teams are part of an intergovernmental team for initial assessment to
12 identify and target individual needs, such as medical issues and
13 treatment, mental health treatment, acquisition of medication,
14 identification acquisition (such as birth certificates and social
15 security cards), poly-substance abuse treatment, housing needs, need
16 for immediate sheltering, need for social services (including
17 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, women, infants,
18 and children benefits, supplemental security income acquisition,
19 medicaid, medicare, and social security benefits), and reengagement
20 with family and relatives; and

21 (c) A data analysis team charged with data infrastructure
22 development to create a performance monitoring infrastructure,
23 establish a baseline, and then track outcomes for individuals
24 experiencing homelessness in locales around encampments on public
25 rights-of-way. The team shall also estimate the impact on client
26 outcomes and services as well as estimate public program cost
27 savings, where applicable. The data analysis team must provide a
28 report to the governor and appropriate legislative committees by
29 December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 The department shall collaborate with the office of
33 intergovernmental coordination on public right-of-way homeless
34 encampments created in section 2 of this act on developing and
35 implementing a statewide effort to reduce the number of persons
36 encamped on the state public rights-of-way by transitioning to
37 permanent housing solutions. The department shall use any funds
38 appropriated by the legislature for this purpose to provide grants to
39 local governments or nonprofit organizations to meet the individual

1 needs of persons encamped on state public rights-of-way in order to
2 facilitate their transition to permanent housing.

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