
SENATE BILL 5261

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, Kuderer, Das, Warnick, and Nguyen

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program for certain cities to
2 hire homeless persons for local beautification projects; creating a
3 new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of commerce must
6 establish a pilot program for cities to provide job opportunities to
7 and hire persons experiencing homelessness for the purposes of local
8 beautification projects. The pilot program must include three cities,
9 two on the west side and one on the east side of the Cascade mountain
10 range. The cities selected are strongly encouraged to administer
11 their programs during the summer months.

12 (2) Persons experiencing homelessness who are hired under this
13 pilot program must be paid at least the local minimum wage and be
14 connected with organizations that provide wraparound housing
15 services.

16 (3) The pilot program expires July 1, 2022. The cities selected
17 to participate in the pilot program must provide a report to the
18 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022, that
19 includes at least the following information: The number of persons
20 experiencing homelessness hired during the pilot program, the number
21 of such persons connected with wraparound housing services,

1 strategies for hiring persons experiencing homelessness for other
2 local projects, and any legislative recommendations.

3 (4) Persons experiencing homelessness who are hired under this
4 pilot program are not considered state employees. Other provisions of
5 law relating to civil service, hours of work, rate of compensation,
6 sick leave, unemployment compensation, state retirement plans, and
7 vacation leave do not apply to this pilot program, except for project
8 supervisors, who must be city employees, and other administrative and
9 supervisory personnel.

10 (5) The pilot program is considered an unemployment work-relief
11 or work-training program as provided in RCW 50.44.040(4) and, as
12 such, the services of persons experiencing homelessness under this
13 pilot program are excluded from the term "unemployment" and
14 unemployment compensation coverage. The department of commerce must
15 advise the cities selected under the pilot program to notify such
16 persons hired under the pilot program of this exclusion.

17 (6) For purposes of this section, "persons experiencing
18 homelessness" means individuals living outside or in a building not
19 meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to
20 occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program
21 that may include a transitional and supportive housing program if
22 habitation time limits exist.

23 (7) This section expires January 1, 2023.

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