
HOUSE BILL 2282

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representative Walsh

Prefiled 12/31/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a grant program for converting unused
2 public buildings to housing for homeless persons; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.330 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The public building conversion grant program is created in
8 the department. The purpose of this program is to encourage counties
9 to convert unused, publicly owned buildings into housing for homeless
10 persons. The department shall manage, oversee, and evaluate public
11 building conversion grant program applications and shall, subject to
12 appropriation, award grants annually. The department may establish
13 criteria or guidelines to guide counties in the application process.
14 Only counties with a population of one hundred thousand or less are
15 eligible to apply to the department for public building conversion
16 grants.

17 (2) Counties applying for public building conversion grants must
18 submit an inventory of unused public buildings to the department
19 prior to April 1, 2020. To remain eligible for public building
20 conversion grants, counties must update and resubmit the inventory to
21 the department on a quarterly basis.

1 (3) Public building conversion grants may be used only for costs
2 related to rehabilitation, retrofitting, and conversion of unused,
3 publicly owned buildings for use as housing for homeless persons.
4 Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, rehabilitation of
5 older buildings and conversion of commercial buildings to residential
6 use or transitional housing.

7 (4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, as a
8 condition of receiving public building conversion grants, a county
9 must certify to the department that it prohibits the illegal
10 possession of controlled substances on the premises or grounds of any
11 building that is converted to housing for homeless persons with
12 grants awarded pursuant to this section.

13 (b) A county is not required to prohibit the illegal possession
14 of controlled substances on the premises or grounds of temporary
15 shelters providing housing during severe weather events.

16 (5) Public building conversion grants may not be used for
17 staffing or maintaining buildings converted to housing for the
18 homeless. Costs for staffing and maintenance must be borne by the
19 county.

20 (6) The department shall adopt policies to ensure that the
21 state's interest will be protected upon the sale or change of use of
22 projects financed in whole or in part under this section, or upon a
23 county's failure to comply with subsection (4) of this section or any
24 other applicable conditions of grant funding. These policies may
25 include, but are not limited to, requiring repayment of the grant
26 upon the sale or change of use of the project or upon a county's
27 failure to comply with the conditions of grant funding.

28 (7) For purposes of this section, "homeless person" has the same
29 meaning as in RCW 43.185C.010.

30 (8) This section expires December 31, 2021.

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