
HOUSE BILL 2969

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Mead, Irwin, Graham, Orwall, and Macri

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1 AN ACT Relating to housing assistance and relocation support for
2 domestic violence victims; amending RCW 36.18.010, 70.123.010, and
3 70.123.030; reenacting and amending RCW 70.123.020; and adding a new
4 section to chapter 70.123 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.123
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The domestic violence housing assistance and relocation account
9 is created in the state treasury. All receipts from fees imposed for
10 deposit in the housing assistance and relocation account under RCW
11 36.18.010 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account
12 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account
13 may be used only for housing assistance and relocation support for
14 domestic violence victims, which may be in the form of travel,
15 reasonable moving expenses, rental assistance, security deposits,
16 utilities, and other costs incidental to the relocation of housing.
17 In emergent conditions, the support may include assistance to keep a
18 person or persons in a residence. Expenditures for relocation and
19 housing expense assistance must be reasonably related to the
20 victimization of a person or persons.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.18.010 and 2019 c 448 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 County auditors or recording officers shall collect the following
4 fees for their official services:

5 (1) For recording instruments, for the first page eight and one-
6 half by fourteen inches or less, five dollars; for each additional
7 page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar. The
8 fee for recording multiple transactions contained in one instrument
9 will be calculated for each transaction requiring separate indexing
10 as required under RCW 65.04.050 as follows: The fee for each title or
11 transaction is the same fee as the first page of any additional
12 recorded document; the fee for additional pages is the same fee as
13 for any additional pages for any recorded document; the fee for the
14 additional pages may be collected only once and may not be collected
15 for each title or transaction;

16 (2) For preparing and certifying copies, for the first page eight
17 and one-half by fourteen inches or less, three dollars; for each
18 additional page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, one
19 dollar;

20 (3) For preparing noncertified copies, for each page eight and
21 one-half by fourteen inches or less, one dollar;

22 (4) For administering an oath or taking an affidavit, with or
23 without seal, two dollars;

24 (5) For issuing a marriage license(~~(7)~~):

25 (a) An eight ((dollars7)) dollar fee to be transmitted monthly to
26 the state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund (this fee
27 includes taking necessary affidavits, filing returns, indexing, and
28 transmittal of a record of the marriage to the state registrar of
29 vital statistics); plus ((an-additional))

30 (b) A five dollar fee for use and support of the prevention of
31 child abuse and neglect activities to be transmitted monthly to the
32 state treasurer and deposited in the state general fund; plus ((an
33 additional))

34 (c) A ten dollar fee to be transmitted monthly to the state
35 treasurer and deposited in the state general fund((~~The legislature~~
36 intends to appropriate an amount at least equal to the revenue
37 generated by this fee for the purposes of the displaced homemaker
38 act, chapter 28B.04 RCW)); plus

1 (d) A ten dollar fee for deposit into the domestic violence
2 housing assistance and relocation account created in section 1 of
3 this act;

4 (6) For searching records per hour, eight dollars;

5 (7) For recording plats, fifty cents for each lot except cemetery
6 plats for which the charge shall be twenty-five cents per lot; also
7 one dollar for each acknowledgment, dedication, and description:
8 PROVIDED, That there shall be a minimum fee of twenty-five dollars
9 per plat;

10 (8) For recording of miscellaneous records not listed above, for
11 the first page eight and one-half by fourteen inches or less, five
12 dollars; for each additional page eight and one-half by fourteen
13 inches or less, one dollar;

14 (9) For modernization and improvement of the recording and
15 indexing system, a surcharge as provided in RCW 36.22.170;

16 (10) For recording an emergency nonstandard document as provided
17 in RCW 65.04.047, fifty dollars, in addition to all other applicable
18 recording fees;

19 (11) For recording instruments, a three dollar surcharge to be
20 deposited into the Washington state library operations account
21 created in RCW 43.07.129;

22 (12) For recording instruments, a two dollar surcharge to be
23 deposited into the Washington state library-archives building account
24 created in RCW 43.07.410 until the financing contract entered into by
25 the secretary of state for the Washington state library-archives
26 building is paid in full;

27 (13) For recording instruments, a surcharge as provided in RCW
28 36.22.178; and

29 (14) For recording instruments, except for documents recording a
30 birth, marriage, divorce, or death or any documents otherwise
31 exempted from a recording fee under state law, a surcharge as
32 provided in RCW 36.22.179.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.123.010 and 2015 c 275 s 1 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) The legislature finds that domestic violence is an issue of
36 serious concern at all levels of society and government and that
37 there is a pressing need for innovative strategies to address and
38 prevent domestic violence and to strengthen services which will

1 ameliorate and reduce the trauma of domestic violence and enhance
2 survivors' resiliency and autonomy.

3 (2) The legislature finds that there are a wide range of
4 consequences to domestic violence, including deaths, injuries,
5 hospitalizations, homelessness, employment problems, property damage,
6 and lifelong physical and psychological impacts on victims and their
7 children. These impacts also affect victims' friends and families,
8 neighbors, employers, landlords, law enforcement, the courts, the
9 health care system, and Washington state and society as a whole.
10 Advocacy and shelters for victims of domestic violence are essential
11 to provide support to victims in preventing further abuse and to help
12 victims assess and plan for their immediate and longer term safety,
13 including finding long-range alternative living situations, if
14 requested.

15 (3) Thus, it is the intent of the legislature to:

16 (a) Provide for a statewide network of supportive services,
17 emergency shelter services, and advocacy for victims of domestic
18 violence and their dependents;

19 (b) Provide for housing assistance and relocation support for
20 domestic violence victims;

21 (c) Provide for culturally relevant and appropriate services for
22 victims of domestic violence and their children from populations that
23 have been traditionally unserved or underserved;

24 (~~(e)~~) (d) Provide for a statewide domestic violence information
25 and referral resource;

26 (~~(d)~~) (e) Assist communities in efforts to increase public
27 awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of domestic
28 violence;

29 (~~(e)~~) (f) Provide for the collection, analysis, and
30 dissemination of current information related to emerging issues and
31 model and promising practices related to preventing and intervening
32 in situations involving domestic violence; and

33 (~~(f)~~) (g) Provide for ongoing training and technical assistance
34 for individuals working with victims in community-based domestic
35 violence programs and other persons seeking such training and
36 technical assistance.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.123.020 and 2015 c 275 s 2 are each reenacted and
38 amended to read as follows:

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Community advocate" means a person employed or supervised by
4 a community-based domestic violence program who is trained to provide
5 ongoing assistance and advocacy for victims of domestic violence in
6 assessing and planning for safety needs, making appropriate social
7 service, legal, and housing referrals, providing community education,
8 maintaining contacts necessary for prevention efforts, and developing
9 protocols for local systems coordination.

10 (2) "Community-based domestic violence program" means a nonprofit
11 program or organization that provides, as its primary purpose,
12 assistance and advocacy for domestic violence victims. Domestic
13 violence assistance and advocacy includes crisis intervention,
14 individual and group support, information and referrals, and safety
15 assessment and planning. Domestic violence assistance and advocacy
16 may also include, but is not limited to: Provision of shelter,
17 emergency transportation, self-help services, culturally specific
18 services, legal advocacy, economic advocacy, community education,
19 primary and secondary prevention efforts, and accompaniment and
20 advocacy through medical, legal, immigration, human services, and
21 financial assistance systems. Domestic violence programs that are
22 under the auspices of, or the direct supervision of, a court, law
23 enforcement or prosecution agency, or the child protective services
24 section of the department as defined in RCW 26.44.020, are not
25 considered community-based domestic violence programs.

26 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health
27 services.

28 (4) "Domestic violence" means the infliction or threat of
29 physical harm against an intimate partner, and includes physical,
30 sexual, and psychological abuse against the partner, and is a part of
31 a pattern of assaultive, coercive, and controlling behaviors directed
32 at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner.
33 It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses,
34 as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner
35 against another.

36 (5) "Domestic violence coalition" means a statewide nonprofit
37 domestic violence organization that has a membership that includes
38 the majority of the primary purpose, community-based domestic
39 violence programs in the state, has board membership that is
40 representative of community-based, primary purpose domestic violence

1 programs, and has as its purpose to provide education, support, and
2 technical assistance to such community-based, primary purpose
3 domestic violence programs and to assist the programs in providing
4 shelter, advocacy, supportive services, and prevention efforts for
5 victims of domestic violence and dating violence and their
6 dependents.

7 (6) "Domestic violence program" means an agency, organization, or
8 program with a primary purpose and a history of effective work in
9 providing advocacy, safety assessment and planning, and self-help
10 services for domestic violence in a supportive environment, and
11 includes, but is not limited to, a community-based domestic violence
12 program, emergency shelter, or domestic violence transitional housing
13 program.

14 (7) "Emergency shelter" means a place of supportive services and
15 safe, temporary lodging offered on a twenty-four hour, seven-day per
16 week basis to victims of domestic violence and their children.

17 (8) "Housing assistance and relocation support" means travel,
18 reasonable living expenses, rental assistance, security deposits,
19 utilities, and other costs incidental to the relocation of housing.
20 In emergent conditions support may include assistance to keep a
21 person or persons in a residence.

22 (9) "Intimate partner" means a person who is or was married, in a
23 state registered domestic partnership, or in an intimate or dating
24 relationship with another person at the present or at sometime in the
25 past. Any person who has one or more children in common with another
26 person, regardless of whether they have been married, in a domestic
27 partnership with each other, or lived together at any time, shall be
28 treated as an intimate partner.

29 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Legal advocate" means a person employed by a
30 domestic violence program or court system to advocate for victims of
31 domestic violence, within the criminal and civil justice systems, by
32 attending court proceedings, assisting in document and case
33 preparation, and ensuring linkage with the community advocate.

34 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department
35 of social and health services or the secretary's designee.

36 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Shelter" means temporary lodging and supportive
37 services, offered by community-based domestic violence programs to
38 victims of domestic violence and their children.

39 ~~((12))~~ (13) "Victim" means an intimate partner who has been
40 subjected to domestic violence.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.123.030 and 2015 c 275 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The department of social and health services, in consultation
4 with relevant state departments, the domestic violence coalition, and
5 individuals or groups having experience and knowledge of the
6 prevention of, and the problems facing victims of domestic violence,
7 including those with experience providing culturally appropriate
8 services to populations that have traditionally been underserved or
9 unserved, shall:

10 (1) Develop and maintain a plan for delivering domestic violence
11 victim services, prevention efforts, housing and relocation
12 assistance, and access to emergency shelter across the state. In
13 developing the plan under this section, the department shall consider
14 the distribution of community-based domestic violence programs and
15 emergency shelter programs in a particular geographic area,
16 population density, and specific population needs, including the
17 needs in rural and urban areas, the availability and existence of
18 domestic violence outreach and prevention activities, and the need
19 for culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The
20 department shall also develop and maintain a plan for providing a
21 statewide toll-free information and referral hotline or other
22 statewide accessible information and referral service for victims of
23 domestic violence;

24 (2) Establish minimum standards for community-based domestic
25 violence programs, emergency shelter programs, programs providing
26 culturally or linguistically specific services, programs providing
27 prevention and intervention services to children or youth, and
28 programs conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention
29 activities applying for grants from the department under this
30 chapter;

31 (3) Receive grant applications for the development and
32 establishment of community-based domestic violence programs,
33 emergency shelter programs, and culturally or linguistically specific
34 services for victims of domestic violence, programs providing
35 prevention and intervention services to children who have been
36 exposed to domestic violence or youth who have been victims of dating
37 violence, and programs conducting domestic violence outreach and
38 prevention activities;

39 (4) Distribute funds to those community-based domestic violence
40 programs, emergency shelter programs, programs providing culturally

1 or linguistically specific services, programs providing prevention
2 and intervention services to children or youth, and programs
3 conducting domestic violence outreach and prevention activities
4 meeting departmental standards;

5 (5) Evaluate biennially each community-based domestic violence
6 program, emergency shelter program, program providing culturally or
7 linguistically specific services, program providing prevention and
8 intervention services to children or youth, and program conducting
9 domestic violence outreach and prevention activities receiving
10 departmental funds for compliance with the established minimum
11 standards;

12 (6) Review the minimum standards each biennium to ensure
13 applicability to community and client needs;

14 (7) Administer funds available from the domestic violence
15 prevention account under RCW 70.123.150 to provide for:

16 (a) Culturally specific prevention efforts and culturally
17 appropriate community-based domestic violence services for victims of
18 domestic violence from populations that have been traditionally
19 underserved or unserved;

20 (b) Age appropriate prevention and intervention services for
21 children who have been exposed to domestic violence or youth who have
22 been victims of dating violence; and

23 (c) Outreach and education efforts by community-based domestic
24 violence programs designed to increase public awareness about, and
25 primary and secondary prevention of, domestic and dating violence;
26 and

27 (8) Receive applications from, and award grants or issue
28 contracts to, eligible nonprofit groups or organizations with
29 experience and expertise in the field of domestic violence and a
30 statewide perspective for:

31 (a) Providing resources, ongoing training opportunities, and
32 technical assistance relating to domestic violence for community-
33 based domestic violence programs across the state to develop
34 effective means for preventing domestic violence and providing
35 effective and supportive services and interventions for victims of
36 domestic violence;

37 (b) Providing resource information, technical assistance, and
38 collaborating to develop model policies and protocols to improve the
39 capacity of individuals, governmental entities, and communities to

1 prevent domestic violence and to provide effective, supportive
2 services and interventions to address domestic violence; and
3 (c) Providing opportunities to persons working in the area of
4 domestic violence to exchange information and resources.

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