
SENATE BILL 5946

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Nguyen, Saldaña, and Hasegawa

1 AN ACT Relating to the application of the state environmental
2 policy act to temporary shelters and transitional encampments; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.21C RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Permit actions to site a temporary shelter or transitional
8 encampment are exempt from compliance with this chapter if the
9 facility meets each of the following standards:

10 (a) The facility is used for formerly homeless people;

11 (b) The facility includes no more than two hundred beds and the
12 number of occupants is based on one person for each bed;

13 (c) The facility is used on the site for no more than three
14 years; and

15 (d) The transitional encampment does not involve the erection of
16 a new permanent structure.

17 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
18 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

19 (a) "Temporary shelter" means a use sited in an existing
20 structure that provides temporary quarters for sleeping and shelter.

1 The use may have common food preparation, shower, or other commonly
2 used facilities that support temporary shelters.

3 (b) "Transitional encampment" means a use having tents or a
4 similar shelter, including vehicles used for shelter that provides
5 temporary quarters for sleeping and shelter. The use may have common
6 food preparation, shower, or other commonly used facilities that are
7 separate from the sleeping shelters and that support transitional
8 encampments.

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