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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5261**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Housing Stability & Affordability (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, Kuderer, Das, Warnick, Nguyen, and Palumbo)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/19.

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.

11       (2) The cities selected must have:

12       (a) Preexisting related programming in place to support  
13 administration of this pilot program;

14       (b) A higher than average rate of unsheltered persons  
15 experiencing homelessness compared to sheltered persons experiencing  
16 homelessness;

17       (c) The ability to provide a local match to state funds up to two  
18 hundred fifty thousand dollars for purposes of this pilot program.

19       The cities selected are strongly encouraged to administer their  
20 programs during the summer months.

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

5 (4) The pilot program expires July 1, 2022. By December 1, 2022,  
6 the cities selected to participate in the pilot program must report  
7 to the department of commerce the number of persons experiencing  
8 homelessness hired during the pilot program and the number of such  
9 persons connected with wraparound housing services. By July 1, 2023,  
10 the department of commerce must report to the legislature the  
11 statistics provided by the cities along with strategies for hiring  
12 persons experiencing homelessness for other local projects and any  
13 legislative recommendations.

14 (5) Persons experiencing homelessness who are hired under this  
15 pilot program are not considered state employees. Other provisions of  
16 law relating to civil service, hours of work, rate of compensation,  
17 state retirement plans, paid family and medical leave, and vacation  
18 leave do not apply to this pilot program, except for project  
19 supervisors, who must be city employees, and other administrative and  
20 supervisory personnel.

21 (6) Nothing in this section is intended to preclude or curtail  
22 collective bargaining rights between a labor union and a public  
23 employer.

24 (7) For purposes of this section, "persons experiencing  
25 homelessness" means individuals living outside or in a building not  
26 meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to  
27 occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program  
28 that may include a transitional and supportive housing program if  
29 habitation time limits exist.

30 (8) This section expires July 1, 2023.

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