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**SENATE BILL 5898**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Rolfes

1 AN ACT Relating to the surcharge for local homeless housing and  
2 assistance; and amending RCW 36.22.179.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.22.179 and 2018 c 85 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) In addition to the surcharge authorized in RCW 36.22.178, and  
7 except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an additional  
8 surcharge of sixty-two dollars shall be charged by the county auditor  
9 for each document recorded, which will be in addition to any other  
10 charge allowed by law. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this  
11 section, the funds collected pursuant to this section are to be  
12 distributed and used as follows:

13 (a) The auditor shall retain two percent for collection of the  
14 fee, and of the remainder shall remit sixty percent to the county to  
15 be deposited into a fund that must be used by the county and its  
16 cities and towns to accomplish the purposes of chapter 484, Laws of  
17 2005, six percent of which may be used by the county for the  
18 collection and local distribution of these funds and administrative  
19 costs related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for  
20 programs which directly accomplish the goals of the county's local  
21 homeless housing plan, except that for each city in the county which

1 elects as authorized in RCW 43.185C.080 to operate its own local  
2 homeless housing program, a percentage of the surcharge assessed  
3 under this section equal to the percentage of the city's local  
4 portion of the real estate excise tax collected by the county shall  
5 be transmitted at least quarterly to the city treasurer, without any  
6 deduction for county administrative costs, for use by the city for  
7 program costs which directly contribute to the goals of the city's  
8 local homeless housing plan; of the funds received by the city, it  
9 may use six percent for administrative costs for its homeless housing  
10 program.

11 (b) The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state  
12 treasurer for deposit in the home security fund account to be used as  
13 follows:

14 (i) The department may use twelve and one-half percent of this  
15 amount for administration of the program established in RCW  
16 43.185C.020, including the costs of creating the statewide homeless  
17 housing strategic plan, measuring performance, providing technical  
18 assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless housing  
19 grant program.

20 (ii) The remaining eighty-seven and one-half percent of this  
21 amount must be used as follows:

22 (A) At least forty-five percent must be set aside for the use of  
23 private rental housing payments; and

24 (B) All remaining funds are to be used by the department to:

25 (I) Provide housing and shelter for homeless people including,  
26 but not limited to: Grants to operate, repair, and staff shelters;  
27 grants to operate transitional housing; partial payments for rental  
28 assistance; consolidated emergency assistance; overnight youth  
29 shelters; grants and vouchers designated for victims of human  
30 trafficking and their families; and emergency shelter assistance; and

31 (II) Fund the homeless housing grant program.

32 (2) A county issuing general obligation bonds pursuant to RCW  
33 36.67.010, to carry out the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this  
34 section, may provide that such bonds be made payable from any  
35 surcharge provided for in subsection (1)(a) of this section and may  
36 pledge such surcharges to the repayment of the bonds.

37 (3) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to (a)  
38 assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust,  
39 (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death, (c) any  
40 recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or

1 additional surcharges under state law, (d) marriage licenses issued  
2 by the county auditor, or (e) documents recording a federal, state,  
3 county, or city lien or satisfaction of lien.

4 (4) Ten dollars of the surcharge imposed under subsection (1) of  
5 this section must be distributed to the counties to carry out the  
6 purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this section.

7 (5) For purposes of this section, "private rental housing" means  
8 housing owned by a private landlord and includes housing owned by a  
9 nonprofit housing entity.

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