
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5946

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Housing Stability & Affordability (originally sponsored by Senators Nguyen, Saldaña, Hasegawa, Das, and Lovelett)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/19.

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 people experiencing homelessness;
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 a new or existing
20 structure or modular structure that provides temporary quarters for
21 sleeping and shelter. The use may have common food preparation,

1 shower, or other commonly used facilities that support temporary
2 shelters.

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

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