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**SENATE BILL 6186**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Zeiger and Becker

Prefiled 01/09/20. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Housing Stability & Affordability.

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritizing homelessness diversion services;  
2 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 2019 c 136 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read 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) At least twenty-five percent must be set aside for the  
25 department to establish and administer a competitive grant program  
26 for local governments to provide diversion services for those  
27 families and individuals who are at substantial risk of losing stable  
28 housing or became recently homeless and are determined to have a high  
29 probability of returning to stable housing. For the purposes of this  
30 subsection (1) (b) (ii) (B):

31 (I) "Diversion services" means the employment or contracting of  
32 at least one diversion specialist to assist persons and families to  
33 find housing options using their own available resources or, if none  
34 exist, providing such persons and families with short-term services  
35 or one-time financial assistance, or both; and

36 (II) "Substantial risk" means the person or family has provided  
37 documentation that they will lose their housing within the next  
38 thirty days or that services will be discontinued within the next  
39 thirty days; and

40 (C) All remaining funds are to be used by the department to:

1 (I) Provide housing and shelter for homeless people including,  
2 but not limited to: Grants to operate, repair, and staff shelters;  
3 grants to operate transitional housing; partial payments for rental  
4 assistance; consolidated emergency assistance; overnight youth  
5 shelters; grants and vouchers designated for victims of human  
6 trafficking and their families; and emergency shelter assistance; and

7 (II) Fund the homeless housing grant program.

8 (2) A county issuing general obligation bonds pursuant to RCW  
9 36.67.010, to carry out the purposes of subsection (1)(a) of this  
10 section, may provide that such bonds be made payable from any  
11 surcharge provided for in subsection (1)(a) of this section and may  
12 pledge such surcharges to the repayment of the bonds.

13 (3) The surcharge imposed in this section does not apply to (a)  
14 assignments or substitutions of previously recorded deeds of trust,  
15 (b) documents recording a birth, marriage, divorce, or death, (c) any  
16 recorded documents otherwise exempted from a recording fee or  
17 additional surcharges under state law, (d) marriage licenses issued  
18 by the county auditor, or (e) documents recording a federal, state,  
19 county, or city lien or satisfaction of lien.

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

23 (5) For purposes of this section, "private rental housing" means  
24 housing owned by a private landlord and includes housing owned by a  
25 nonprofit housing entity.

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