

1 AN ACT Relating to compassionate and effective strategies to
2 address the homelessness crisis; adding a new section to chapter
3 36.01 RCW; creating new sections; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that after the ninth
6 circuit court of appeals finding in *Martin v. City of Boise*, it is
7 imperative that cities and counties of a certain size provide shelter
8 to the homeless population. The provision of mental health and
9 substance abuse treatment options must be part of the shelter model
10 as well as security for the residents, staff, and counselors. Whereas
11 the state has allocated money for housing assistance in the housing
12 trust fund, the legislature also finds that such shelters should be
13 funded utilizing that money. Cities and counties are struggling to
14 cope with unauthorized camping and the negative environmental and
15 social impacts of such camping. By establishing a shelter, local
16 governments may then be allowed to manage the potential environmental
17 hazards that accompany sporadic camping.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Every county and each city with a population over 50,000 must
2 establish and operate at least one emergency overnight shelter site
3 in its respective jurisdiction. Counties and each eligible city with
4 the county's geographic boundary must coordinate to ensure that there
5 are enough cumulative shelter beds to accommodate, at a minimum, the
6 sheltered and unsheltered portions of the county's most recent point-
7 in-time homeless count. Each shelter must prohibit the possession and
8 use of alcohol and unprescribed drugs on its premises contingent upon
9 evaluation for and compliance with treatment as recommended. Each
10 shelter must also provide for a police presence during the shelter's
11 operating hours. Counties and each eligible city shall require and
12 make available employment, mental health, and drug counseling
13 services at each shelter location.

14 (2) Any shelter established under this section is eligible for
15 assistance under the housing trust fund pursuant to RCW 43.185.050.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known and cited as the
17 serious homelessness engagement leads to effective results (SHELTER)
18 act.

--- END ---