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HOUSE BILL 1326

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Cortes and Chopp

1 AN ACT Relating to waiving municipal utility connection charges  
2 for certain properties; amending RCW 35.92.380; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 35.92 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 35.92  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive  
8 connection charges for properties used by a nonprofit organization, a  
9 public development authority, a housing authority, a local agency, or  
10 any other legal entity that provides emergency shelter, transitional  
11 housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing.

12 (2) At such time as a property receiving a waiver under  
13 subsection (1) of this section is no longer operating under the  
14 eligibility requirements under subsection (1) of this section:

15 (a) The waiver of connection charges required under subsection  
16 (1) of this section is no longer required; and

17 (b) Any connection charges waived under subsection (1) of this  
18 section are immediately due and payable to the utility as a condition  
19 of continued service.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as in RCW  
2 36.70A.030.

3 (b) "Connection charges" means the one-time capital and  
4 administrative charges imposed by a utility on a building or facility  
5 owner for a new utility service and costs borne or assessed by a  
6 utility for the labor, materials, and services necessary to  
7 physically connect a designated facility to the respective utility  
8 service.

9 (c) "Emergency shelter" means any facility:

10 (i) Whose sole purpose is to provide a temporary shelter for the  
11 homeless and that does not require occupants to sign a lease or  
12 occupancy agreement; and

13 (ii) That is funded in whole or in part from the state omnibus  
14 capital appropriations act, state omnibus operating appropriations  
15 act, housing finance commission programs, housing authorities, or  
16 local government housing funds.

17 (d) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in RCW  
18 36.70A.030.

19 (e) "Transitional housing" has the same meaning as in RCW  
20 84.36.043.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.92.380 and 1980 c 150 s 1 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Whenever a city or town waives or delays collection of tap-in  
24 charges, connection fees, or hookup fees for (~~low-income~~) low-  
25 income persons, (~~or~~) a class of (~~low-income~~) low-income persons,  
26 or a nonprofit organization, a public development authority, a  
27 housing authority, a local agency, or any other legal entity that  
28 provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent  
29 supportive housing, or affordable housing as defined in section 1 of  
30 this act to connect to lines or pipes used by the city or town to  
31 provide utility service, the waiver or delay shall be pursuant to a  
32 program established by ordinance. As used in this section, the  
33 provision of "utility service" includes, but is not limited to,  
34 water, sanitary or storm sewer service, electricity, gas, other means  
35 of power, and heat.

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