
SENATE BILL 5865

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Kline and Hargrove

Read first time 03/05/11. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to participation in the WorkFirst program; amending
2 RCW 74.08A.010 and 74.08A.270; creating a new section; providing an
3 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2004 c 54 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary
8 assistance for needy families for sixty months after July 27, 1997,
9 shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy families
10 assistance.

11 (2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the
12 department shall count any month in which an adult family member
13 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance
14 grant unless the assistance was provided when the family member was a
15 minor child and not the head of the household or married to the head of
16 the household or if the family was not engaged in work or work
17 activities for good cause provided in RCW 74.08A.270(1).

18 (3) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized
19 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims' programs

1 through the department of (~~community, trade, and economic~~
2 ~~development~~) commerce, or the crime victims' compensation program of
3 the department of labor and industries.

4 (4) The department may exempt a recipient and the recipient's
5 family from the application of subsection (1) of this section by reason
6 of hardship or if the recipient meets the family violence options of
7 section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal social security act as
8 amended by P.L. 104-193. The number of recipients and their families
9 exempted from subsection (1) of this section for a fiscal year shall
10 not exceed twenty percent of the average monthly number of recipients
11 and their families to which assistance is provided under the temporary
12 assistance for needy families program.

13 (5) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her
14 family from the application of subsection (1) of this section until
15 after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance under
16 this chapter.

17 (6) Beginning on October 31, 2005, the department shall provide
18 transitional food stamp assistance for a period of five months to a
19 household that ceases to receive temporary assistance for needy
20 families assistance and is not in sanction status. If necessary, the
21 department shall extend the household's food stamp certification until
22 the end of the transition period.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.270 and 2007 c 289 s 1 are each amended to read
24 as follows:

25 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst
26 program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a
27 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
28 the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care
29 for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent
30 child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue
31 participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not
32 available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the
33 recipient is a parent with a child under the age of (~~one~~) two years.

34 (2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst
35 participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section may be required
36 to participate in one or more of the following, up to a maximum total

1 of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or training is
2 indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or other assessment:

3 (a) Mental health treatment;

4 (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;

5 (c) Domestic violence services; or

6 (d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if available.

7 (3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good
8 cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and
9 access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and
10 promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation
11 programs and services; and (b) provide information on the availability
12 of home visitation services to temporary assistance for needy families
13 caseworkers, who shall inform clients of the availability of the
14 services. If desired by the client, the caseworker shall facilitate
15 appropriate referrals to providers of home visitation services. If a
16 participant does not participate on a voluntary basis, the participant
17 is not eligible for child care services provided in RCW 74.08A.340.

18 (4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from
19 participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

20 (5) A parent is eligible for a good cause exemption under
21 subsection (1)(b) of this section for a maximum total of (~~twelve~~)
22 twenty-four months over the parent's lifetime.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any part of this act is found to be in
24 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
25 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
26 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
27 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
28 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
29 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal
30 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
31 funds by the state.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
34 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect

1 May 1, 2011.

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