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HOUSE BILL 2683

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, Haler, Muri, Hayes, Rodne, Nealey, Hargrove, and Magendanz

Read first time 01/27/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting individuals from receiving public  
2 assistance when they are fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or  
3 confinement, or violating parole or probation; and amending RCW  
4 74.08.025.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08.025 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 7 are each amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

9 (a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements  
10 of department assistance programs; and

11 (b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash for  
12 the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

13 (c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a  
14 patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public  
15 institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED,  
16 That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing  
17 homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing  
18 and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and  
19 health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of

1 clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical  
2 institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall  
3 allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant  
4 to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for work  
5 as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to prepare  
6 the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent permitted  
7 under Title XIX of the federal social security act; and

8 (d) Who is not fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or  
9 confinement for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime, that is a  
10 felony or misdemeanor under the law of the place from which the  
11 individual is fleeing; and

12 (e) Who is not violating a condition of probation or parole as  
13 determined by an administrative body or court that has the authority to  
14 make the decision.

15 (2) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
16 needy families under this title who has resided in the state of  
17 Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately  
18 preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level in  
19 the state in which the person resided immediately before Washington,  
20 using the eligibility rules and other definitions established under  
21 this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of application in  
22 Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior state is lower than  
23 the level provided to similarly situated applicants in Washington  
24 state. The benefit level under this subsection shall be in effect for  
25 the first twelve months a recipient is on temporary assistance for  
26 needy families in Washington state.

27 (3) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
28 needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and substance  
29 abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring treatment to  
30 become employable shall be required by the department to participate in  
31 a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of benefit receipt.

32 (4) The department may implement a permanent disqualification for  
33 adults who have been terminated due to WorkFirst noncompliance sanction  
34 three or more times since March 1, 2007. A household that includes an  
35 adult who has been permanently disqualified from receiving temporary  
36 assistance for needy families shall be ineligible for further temporary  
37 assistance for needy families assistance.

1           (5) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall exempt  
2 individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C. 862a(a)(1)  
3 and (2) to ensure eligibility for temporary assistance for needy  
4 families benefits and federal food assistance.

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