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**SENATE BILL 5809**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1995 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hochstatter, Schow, McDonald, Strannigan, McCaslin, West and Oke

Read first time 02/07/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to public assistance sanctions and incentives for  
2 school attendance; adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; creating  
3 new sections; providing an effective date; providing a contingent  
4 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) A participant required to participate by department rule who  
9 maintains satisfactory progress in school shall, not more than four  
10 times in a calendar year, receive a fifty dollar supplement to the  
11 amount of aid paid under this chapter. The department shall pay the  
12 supplement to the assistance unit of which a minor who is a member of  
13 a public assistance grant unit or a teenage parent is a member in the  
14 month following submission of the report card, if received by the  
15 department no later than the eleventh calendar day of the month, or in  
16 the second month following submission of the report card, if received  
17 by the department after the eleventh calendar day of the month.

18 (2)(a) A participant required to participate by department rule who  
19 fails to demonstrate that he or she has made adequate progress in

1 school, either by failing to provide the report card or based on the  
2 grades on the report card, is, not more than four times in a calendar  
3 year, subject to a sanction that is a reduction of one hundred dollars  
4 of the amount that would otherwise be paid under this chapter  
5 apportioned equally over a two-month period.

6 (b)(i) Participants, including, but not limited to, those subject  
7 to sanctions, may seek to demonstrate good cause for lack of adequate  
8 progress. If there is good cause for lack of adequate progress the  
9 department shall either defer the participant from program  
10 participation, or waive all or part of the sanction, or both.  
11 Participants shall be referred to case management services to determine  
12 the causes of poor school performance and how it can be improved.

13 (ii) For the purposes of this section, good cause shall constitute  
14 good cause only when the events described in department rule  
15 substantially deprive the participant of the ability to make adequate  
16 progress on the report card or periodic progress report.

17 (3) A participant required to participate who successfully  
18 completes high school or a high school equivalency examination shall  
19 receive a five hundred dollar supplement. No assistance unit shall  
20 receive a fifty dollar supplement when a five hundred dollar supplement  
21 for the same report card or progress report is paid. The five hundred  
22 dollar supplement shall be paid to a minor who is a member of a public  
23 assistance grant unit or a teenage parent in the month following  
24 submission of the record of completion, if received by the department  
25 no later than the eleventh calendar day of the month, or in the second  
26 month following submission of the record of completion, if received by  
27 the department after the eleventh calendar day of the month.

28 (4) The sanction specified in subsection (2) of this section shall  
29 be applied only once per report card, not to exceed fifty dollars in  
30 any single month, and shall be applied to the amount of aid paid to the  
31 assistance unit of which a minor who is a member of a public assistance  
32 grant unit or a teenage parent is a member. The participant shall  
33 submit a copy of the report card to the case manager within ten working  
34 days of receipt of the report card.

35 (5)(a) For purposes of this section, in schools that provide  
36 periodic report cards with letter grades, satisfactory progress means  
37 maintaining a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a scale where A  
38 equals 4.0 points and F equals 0 points, and adequate progress means  
39 maintaining a grade point average of at least 1.0 on the same scale.

1 (b) For the purposes of this section, in schools or other  
2 educational programs that do not provide letter grades indicating  
3 student performance, satisfactory progress or inadequate progress shall  
4 be determined by the school's regular assessment of periodic progress.

5 (6) In cases where a participant is subject to a sanction pursuant  
6 to subsection (2) of this section, case managers shall do all of the  
7 following:

8 (a) Fully inform teenage parents of the consequences of continuing  
9 to fail to comply with the program;

10 (b) Make reasonable efforts to reach teenage parents who they  
11 believe are in danger of continuing to fail to make satisfactory or  
12 adequate progress or not to attend school;

13 (c) Make reasonable efforts to secure a face-to-face meeting with  
14 a teenage parent before initiating a sanction.

15 (7) If a minor who is a member of a public assistance grant unit or  
16 a teenage parent fails or refuses to comply with program requirements  
17 without good cause, the case manager shall again inform the client of  
18 the consequences of not participating in the program, and shall provide  
19 the teenage parent with the telephone number and address of the local  
20 welfare rights organization or legal aid society, should he or she need  
21 further assistance.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and the department of social  
23 and health services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers  
24 from and amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations and  
25 shall report to the appropriate committees in the house of  
26 representatives and senate quarterly on the efforts to secure the  
27 federal changes to permit full implementation of section 1 of this act  
28 at the earliest possible date.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** In the event that the department of social  
30 and health services is not able to obtain the necessary exemptions,  
31 waivers, or amendments referred to in section 2 of this act before  
32 January 1, 1998, this act shall expire on that date and shall have no  
33 further force or effect.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any part of this act is found to be in  
35 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to  
36 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of

1 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with  
2 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not  
3 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to  
4 the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal  
5 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal  
6 funds by the state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
10 effect July 1, 1995.

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