
SENATE BILL 5810

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Moyer, Long, Deccio, McDonald, Strannigan, Schow, McCaslin, West and Oke

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

1 AN ACT Relating to rent vouchers for public assistance; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; creating new sections; providing a
3 contingent expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

7 (1) At the request of a recipient of aid under this section, the
8 department shall provide the portion of the grant equal to the amount
9 of the recipient's rent to the recipient's landlord in the form of a
10 rent voucher or by an alternative payment method.

11 (2) A two-party payment shall be made whenever a recipient of aid
12 under this section has failed to pay rent to the landlord for two
13 months or more, unless the failure to pay rent is authorized by law.
14 In this subsection, "two-party payment" means a check drawn in favor of
15 a recipient of aid under this section and the recipient's landlord,
16 jointly.

17 (3) If a landlord reports to the department, under department rule,
18 that a recipient has failed to pay rent for two or more months, the
19 department shall do all of the following:

- 1 (a) Inform the recipient of the report;
- 2 (b) Investigate the report;
- 3 (c) If it determines that the conditions for issuing a two-party
4 payment under subsection (2) of this section are met, inform the
5 recipient of the right to a fair hearing on the issue of whether two-
6 party payment of rent should be made;
- 7 (d) If it determines that two-party payments should not be made,
8 inform the recipient and the landlord of that determination.
- 9 (4) When it has been determined that a two-party payment of rent
10 should be made, the department shall issue the recipient's monthly
11 grant in two checks, a two-party payment for the amount of the rent,
12 and a check drawn in favor of the recipient for the balance of the
13 grant amount.
- 14 (5) The department shall review each case in which a two-party
15 payment is being made at least once every twelve months and whenever a
16 recipient reports that a condition for the cessation of two-party
17 payments exists.
- 18 (6) The department shall cease making a two-party payment, when the
19 department determines that any of the following conditions exists:
- 20 (a) A two-party payment has been made for twenty-four consecutive
21 months;
- 22 (b) The recipient has reimbursed the landlord for all back rent
23 owed;
- 24 (c) The recipient has moved and has a different landlord.

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any part of this act is found to be in
2 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
3 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
4 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
5 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
6 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
7 the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal
8 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
9 funds by the state.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
12 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
13 effect immediately.

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