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SENATE BILL 5813

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

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

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

1 AN ACT Relating to long-term public assistance recipients; amending  
2 RCW 74.12.420; creating new sections; providing an effective date;  
3 providing a contingent expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.12.420 and 1994 c 299 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The legislature recognizes that long-term recipients of aid to  
8 families with dependent children may require a period of several years  
9 to attain economic self-sufficiency. To provide incentives for long-  
10 term recipients to leave public assistance and accept paid employment,  
11 the legislature finds that less punitive and onerous sanctions than  
12 those required by the federal government are appropriate. The  
13 legislature finds that a (~~ten~~) twenty percent reduction in grants for  
14 long-term recipients that may be replaced through earned income is a  
15 more positive approach than sanctions required by the federal  
16 government for long-term recipients who fail to comply with  
17 requirements of the job opportunities and basic skills program. A  
18 long-term recipient shall not be subject to two simultaneous sanctions  
19 for failure to comply with the participation requirements of the job

1 opportunities and basic skills program and for exceeding the length of  
2 stay provisions of this section.

3 (1) After ~~((forty-eight))~~ thirty-six monthly benefit payments in a  
4 sixty-month period, and after each additional ~~((twelve))~~ six monthly  
5 benefit payments, the aid to families with dependent children monthly  
6 benefit payment shall be reduced by ~~((ten))~~ twenty percent of the  
7 payment standard, except that after ~~((forty-eight))~~ thirty-six monthly  
8 payments in a sixty-month period, full monthly benefit payments may be  
9 made if:

10 (a) The person is incapacitated or is needed in the home to care  
11 for a member of the household who is incapacitated;

12 (b) The person is needed in the home to care for a child who is  
13 under three years of age; or

14 (c) There are no adults in the assistance unit(~~(+~~

15 ~~(d) The person is cooperating in the development and implementation~~  
16 ~~of an employability plan while receiving aid to families with dependent~~  
17 ~~children and no present full-time, part-time, or unpaid work experience~~  
18 ~~job is offered; or~~

19 ~~(e) During a month in which a grant reduction would be imposed~~  
20 ~~under this section, the person is participating in an unpaid work~~  
21 ~~experience program)).~~

22 (2) For purposes of determining the amount of the food stamp  
23 benefit for recipients subject to benefit reductions provided for in  
24 subsection (1) of this section, countable income from the aid to  
25 families with dependent children program shall be set at the payment  
26 standard.

27 (3) For purposes of determining monthly benefit payments for two-  
28 parent aid to families with dependent children households, the length  
29 of stay criterion will be applied to the parent with the longer history  
30 of public assistance receipt.

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

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

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

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

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