
SENATE BILL 5814

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

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

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

1 AN ACT Relating to welfare fraud investigations; adding a new
2 section to chapter 74.04 RCW; creating new sections; providing an
3 effective date; providing a contingent expiration date; and declaring
4 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 In an effort to protect the benefits of those who are eligible for
9 public assistance and to reduce the expenditure of benefits to those
10 who are not, the department shall make unannounced visits to recipients
11 of public assistance if the department has received a complaint and
12 feels it is necessary to investigate welfare fraud. Recipients of
13 public assistance shall participate in interviews with employees of the
14 department who are investigating welfare fraud when the employees
15 request such interviews. Lack of cooperation shall result in a grant
16 reduction of twenty-five percent.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and the department of social
18 and health services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers

1 from and amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations and
2 shall report to the appropriate committees in the house of
3 representatives and senate quarterly on the efforts to secure the
4 federal changes to permit full implementation of section 1 of this act
5 at the earliest possible date.

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

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

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

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