
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2900

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooke, Ballasiotes, McDonald, Boldt and Mitchell)

Read first time 01/30/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to pro rata calculation of temporary assistance for
2 needy families grants; amending RCW 74.08A.260; adding a new section to
3 chapter 74.08A RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective
4 date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) A recipient's grant amount for any month shall reflect the
9 recipient's participation in any required work activity. The grant
10 amount shall be decreased, pro rata, for the time the recipient fails
11 to perform during the prior month the number of work units or work
12 activity units required by the department under P.L. 104-193 and this
13 chapter. If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
14 required by the department, and if the department determines it
15 appropriate, the family's grant may be terminated.

16 (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to a recipient
17 if the department finds that the recipient failed to meet the required
18 number of work activity units for good cause. Good cause shall
19 include, but not be limited to, illness or injury of the recipient or

1 of a person dependent on the recipient, temporary unavailability of
2 child care and any accessible alternatives, and the situations listed
3 in RCW 74.08A.270.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health services
5 shall study and report on: (1) The practical application and fiscal
6 impact of adopting the pro rata calculation of grants provided in
7 section 1 of this act; (2) appropriate good cause exceptions; and (3)
8 methods and rules for preventing abuse of the exceptions. The
9 department shall report its findings to the house of representatives
10 children and family services committee and to the senate human services
11 and corrections committee by November 30, 1998.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 1997 c 58 s 313 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Recipients who have not obtained paid, unsubsidized employment by
15 the end of the job search component authorized in section 312 of this
16 act shall be referred to a work activity.

17 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed immediately upon completion of
18 the job search component. Assessments shall be based upon factors that
19 are critical to obtaining employment, including but not limited to
20 education, employment strengths, and employment history. Assessments
21 may be performed by the department or by a contracted entity. The
22 assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format
23 that will be accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the
24 recipient. Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
25 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
26 for moving the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the
27 obligation of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves
28 the recipient into whatever employment the recipient is capable of
29 handling as quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services
30 available to the recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep
31 employment.

32 (2) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities, and
33 do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270, shall
34 engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

35 ~~(3) ((If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities~~
36 ~~required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the~~

1 recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it
2 appropriate, be terminated.

3 ~~(4) The department may waive the penalties required under~~
4 ~~subsection (3) of this section, subject to a finding that the recipient~~
5 ~~refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW 74.08A.270.~~

6 ~~(5))~~ In implementing this section, the department shall assign the
7 highest priority to the most employable clients, including adults in
8 two-parent families and parents in single-parent families that include
9 older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in work
10 activities.

11 ~~((6))~~ (4) In consultation with the recipient, the department or
12 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
13 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The department of social and health services
15 shall comply with section 1 of this act by July 1, 1999.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Section 3 of this act takes effect July 1,
17 1999.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. If any provision of this act or its
19 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
20 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
21 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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