

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2394**

Chapter 107, Laws of 2006

59th Legislature  
2006 Regular Session

WORKFIRST PARTICIPANTS--FINANCIAL LITERACY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/07

Passed by the House February 8, 2006  
Yeas 98 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 2, 2006  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved March 17, 2006.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2394** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 17, 2006 - 11:29 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2394**

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Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Morrell, Appleton, Moeller, Lantz, Hasegawa, Williams, Darneille, Santos, Haler, Wallace, Walsh, McIntire and Simpson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/24/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to financial literacy; amending RCW 74.08A.250 and  
2            74.08A.260; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that for a variety of  
5            reasons, many citizens may lack the basic financial knowledge necessary  
6            to spend their money wisely, save for the future, and manage money  
7            challenges, such as a job loss, financing a college education, or a  
8            catastrophic injury. The legislature also finds that financial  
9            literacy is an essential element in achieving financial stability and  
10           self-sufficiency. The legislature intends to encourage participation  
11           in financial literacy training by WorkFirst participants, in order to  
12           promote their ability to make financial decisions that will contribute  
13           to their long-term financial well-being.

14           **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2000 c 10 s 1 are each amended to read  
15           as follows:

16           Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
17           chapter, "work activity" means:

18           (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;

- 1 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
2 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
3 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;
- 4 (3) Work experience, including:
- 5 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is  
6 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a  
7 license or certificate in a high demand field, as determined by the  
8 employment security department. No internship or practicum shall  
9 exceed twelve months; or
- 10 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted  
11 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;
- 12 (4) On-the-job training;
- 13 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 14 (6) Community service programs;
- 15 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months  
16 with respect to any individual;
- 17 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 18 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
19 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a GED;
- 20 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of  
21 study leading to a GED, in the case of a recipient who has not  
22 completed secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 23 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is  
24 participating in a community service program;
- 25 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience  
26 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or  
27 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 28 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a  
29 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in an  
30 agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for purposes of  
31 advancing their skills and knowledge; (~~and~~)
- 32 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3) and  
33 74.08A.010(3) to become employable; and
- 34 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
35 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
36 stable.

1           **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2003 c 383 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3           (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of program  
4 eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be  
5 based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including  
6 but not limited to education, availability of child care, history of  
7 family violence, history of substance abuse, and other factors that  
8 affect the ability to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed  
9 by the department or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be  
10 based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format that will be  
11 accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the recipient.  
12 Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan shall be  
13 prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan for moving  
14 the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the obligation  
15 of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves the recipient  
16 into whatever employment the recipient is capable of handling as  
17 quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services available to the  
18 recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment.

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

22           (3) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities  
23 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the  
24 recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it  
25 appropriate, be terminated.

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

29           (5) In implementing this section, the department shall assign the  
30 highest priority to the most employable clients, including adults in  
31 two-parent families and parents in single-parent families that include  
32 older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in work  
33 activities.

34           (6) In consultation with the recipient, the department or  
35 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is  
36 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

37           (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a  
38 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging in

1 financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the  
2 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,  
3 including information and resources available through the financial  
4 literacy public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450. The  
5 department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy  
6 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act takes effect January 1, 2007.  
Passed by the House February 8, 2006.  
Passed by the Senate March 2, 2006.  
Approved by the Governor March 17, 2006.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 17, 2006.