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ENGROSSED THIRD SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1482

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Sawyer, Kagi, Stambaugh, Caldier, Robinson, Springer, Hargrove, Tarleton, Ormsby, Doglio, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the legislative-executive  
2 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force; amending RCW  
3 74.08A.260 and 74.08A.341; adding new sections to chapter 74.08A RCW;  
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that  
7 intergenerational poverty, which passes from parents to children,  
8 should be distinguished from situational poverty, which occurs after  
9 an event like losing employment. Intergenerational poverty can affect  
10 the lives of many future children and generations without the  
11 development of specific strategies to stop this cycle.

12 The legislature finds that it is necessary to bring together  
13 state agencies and other stakeholders for the purposes of policy and  
14 program development to address intergenerational poverty and to  
15 develop specific strategies to provide families the support they need  
16 to overcome a history of poverty.

17 The legislature finds that the legislative-executive WorkFirst  
18 oversight task force has recommended that its scope be modified to  
19 include poverty reduction in order to provide a renewed focus on the  
20 underlying causes of intergenerational poverty in Washington.  
21 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a legislative-executive

1 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force and an  
2 intergenerational poverty advisory committee in order to lay the  
3 groundwork in Washington for advancing intergenerational prosperity  
4 and reducing poverty.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this act unless  
8 the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Advisory committee" means the intergenerational poverty  
10 advisory committee.

11 (2) "Cycle of poverty" or "poverty cycle" means the set of  
12 factors or events by which the long-term poverty of a person is  
13 likely to continue and be experienced by each child of the person  
14 when the child becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.

15 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health  
16 services.

17 (4) "Intergenerational poverty" means poverty in which two or  
18 more successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of  
19 poverty and governmental dependence, and is not situational poverty.

20 (5) "Partner agency" means an executive branch agency represented  
21 by a voting or nonvoting member of the task force.

22 (6) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social  
23 and health services.

24 (7) "Task force" means the legislative-executive WorkFirst  
25 poverty reduction oversight task force.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1)(a) A legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction  
29 oversight task force is established, with voting members as provided  
30 in this subsection. Task force membership shall include diverse,  
31 statewide representation and its membership shall reflect regional,  
32 racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of  
33 all children and families in the state.

34 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
35 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

36 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
37 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
38 representatives.

1 (iii) The governor shall appoint eight members representing the  
2 following agencies: The department of social and health services; the  
3 department of children, youth, and families; the department of  
4 commerce; the employment security department; the office of the  
5 superintendent of public instruction; the department of health; the  
6 department of corrections; and the state board for community and  
7 technical colleges.

8 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs, one from among the  
9 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.  
10 The secretary of the department of social and health services shall  
11 convene the initial meeting of the task force.

12 (2) The governor shall appoint five nonvoting members to the task  
13 force representing the:

14 (a) Commission on African-American affairs;

15 (b) State commission on Hispanic affairs;

16 (c) State commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;

17 (d) Governor's office of Indian affairs; and

18 (e) Office of financial management.

19 (3) The cochairs of the intergenerational poverty advisory  
20 committee created in section 4 of this act shall serve as nonvoting  
21 members of the task force.

22 (4) The task force shall:

23 (a) Oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst  
24 program and temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure  
25 that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;

26 (b) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst  
27 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of  
28 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language  
29 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;

30 (c) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and  
31 the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-  
32 sufficiency;

33 (d) Collaborate with the advisory committee created in section 4  
34 of this act to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address  
35 adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty;

36 (e) Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from  
37 service providers, community-based organizations, legislators, state  
38 agencies, stakeholders, the business community, and subject matter  
39 experts;

1 (f) Collaborate with partner agencies and the advisory committee  
2 to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational  
3 poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information  
4 regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty  
5 and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs; and

6 (g) Recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature  
7 to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote and  
8 encourage self-sufficiency.

9 (5)(a) The task force shall direct the department of social and  
10 health services to develop a five-year plan to reduce  
11 intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency, subject to  
12 oversight and approval by the task force. Upon approval by the task  
13 force, the department must submit the plan to the governor and the  
14 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

15 (b) The task force shall review the five-year plan by December 1,  
16 2024, and shall direct the department to update the plan as  
17 determined necessary by the task force.

18 (6) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular  
19 reports on:

20 (a) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and  
21 performance measures established under this section;

22 (b) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of  
23 those trends and expenditures on client services, including services  
24 to historically underrepresented populations; and

25 (c) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on  
26 the temporary assistance for needy families program and have lost  
27 their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

28 (7) Staff support for the task force, including administration of  
29 task force meetings, must be provided by the state agency members of  
30 the task force. Additional staff support for legislative members of  
31 the task force must be provided by senate committee services and the  
32 house of representatives office of program research.

33 (8) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task force  
34 shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the cochairs.

35 (9) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for  
36 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
37 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they  
38 are elected officials or participating on behalf of an employer,  
39 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for  
40 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) To assist the task force established in section 3 of this  
4 act, there is created the intergenerational poverty advisory  
5 committee.

6 (2) The advisory committee must include diverse, statewide  
7 representation from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. The  
8 committee membership must reflect regional, racial, and cultural  
9 diversity to adequately represent the needs of all children and  
10 families in the state.

11 (3) Members of the advisory committee are appointed by the  
12 secretary, with the approval of the task force.

13 (4) The advisory committee must include representatives from:

14 (a) Advocacy groups that focus on childhood poverty issues;

15 (b) Advocacy groups that focus on education and early childhood  
16 education issues;

17 (c) Academic experts in childhood poverty, education, or early  
18 childhood education issues;

19 (d) Faith-based organizations that address childhood poverty,  
20 education, or early childhood education issues;

21 (e) Tribal governments;

22 (f) Families impacted by poverty;

23 (g) Local government representatives that address childhood  
24 poverty or education issues;

25 (h) The business community;

26 (i) A subject matter expert in infant mental health;

27 (j) The department of children, youth, and families; and

28 (k) The department.

29 (5) Each member of the advisory committee is appointed for a  
30 four-year term unless a member is appointed to complete an unexpired  
31 term. The secretary may adjust the length of term at the time of  
32 appointment or reappointment so that approximately one-half of the  
33 advisory committee is appointed every two years.

34 (6) The secretary may remove an advisory committee member:

35 (a) If the member is unable or unwilling to carry out the  
36 member's assigned responsibilities; or

37 (b) For good cause.

38 (7) If a vacancy occurs in the advisory committee membership for  
39 any reason, a replacement may be appointed for the unexpired term.

1 (8) The advisory committee shall choose cochaIRS from among its  
2 membership. The secretary shall convene the initial meeting of the  
3 advisory committee.

4 (9) A majority of the advisory committee constitutes a quorum of  
5 the advisory committee at any meeting and the action of the majority  
6 of members present is the action of the advisory committee.

7 (10) The advisory committee shall:

8 (a) Meet quarterly at the request of the task force cochaIRS or  
9 the cochaIRS of the advisory committee;

10 (b) Make recommendations to the task force on how the task force  
11 and the state can effectively address the needs of children affected  
12 by intergenerational poverty and achieve the purposes and duties of  
13 the task force as described in section 3 of this act;

14 (c) Ensure that the advisory committee's recommendations to the  
15 task force are supported by verifiable data; and

16 (d) Gather input from diverse communities about the impact of  
17 intergenerational poverty on outcomes such as education, health care,  
18 employment, involvement in the child welfare system, and other  
19 related areas.

20 (11) The department shall provide staff support to the advisory  
21 committee and shall endeavor to accommodate the participation needs  
22 of its members. Accommodations may include considering the location  
23 and time of committee meetings, making options available for remote  
24 participation by members, and convening meetings of the committee in  
25 locations with proximity to available child care whenever feasible.

26 (12) Members of the advisory committee may receive reimbursement  
27 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 21 s 1 are each  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of  
31 program eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments  
32 shall be based upon factors that are critical to obtaining  
33 employment, including but not limited to education, availability of  
34 child care, history of family violence, history of substance abuse,  
35 and other factors that affect the ability to obtain employment.  
36 Assessments may be performed by the department or by a contracted  
37 entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent,  
38 transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies and  
39 organizations serving the recipient.

1 (2) Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan  
2 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan  
3 for maximizing the recipient's success at meeting the employment  
4 goal; (b) considers WorkFirst educational and training programs from  
5 which the recipient could benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the  
6 recipient to participate in the program by complying with the plan;  
7 (d) moves the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as  
8 quickly as possible; and (e) describes the services available to the  
9 recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to  
10 obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace and  
11 increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

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

15 (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities  
16 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by  
17 the recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it  
18 appropriate, be terminated.

19 (5) The department may waive the penalties required under  
20 subsection (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the  
21 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW  
22 74.08A.270.

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

26 (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a  
27 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging  
28 in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the  
29 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,  
30 including information and resources available through the financial  
31 education public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450.  
32 The department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy  
33 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under  
34 WorkFirst.

35 (8)~~((a))~~ Subsections (2) through (6) of this section are  
36 suspended for a recipient who is a parent or other relative  
37 personally providing care for a child under the age of two years.  
38 This suspension applies to both one and two parent families. However,  
39 both parents in a two-parent family cannot use the suspension during

1 the same month. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a recipient  
2 from participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

3 ~~((b)(i) The period of suspension of work activities under this  
4 subsection provides an opportunity for the legislative and executive  
5 branches to oversee redesign of the WorkFirst program. To realize  
6 this opportunity, both during the period of suspension and following  
7 reinstatement of work activity requirements as redesign is being  
8 implemented, a legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force  
9 is established, with members as provided in this subsection (8)(b).~~

10 ~~(ii) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from  
11 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.~~

12 ~~(iii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint  
13 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
14 representatives.~~

15 ~~(iv) The governor shall appoint members representing the  
16 department of social and health services, the department of early  
17 learning, the department of commerce, the employment security  
18 department, the office of financial management, and the state board  
19 for community and technical colleges.~~

20 ~~(v) The task force shall choose cochairs, one from among the  
21 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.  
22 The legislative members shall convene the initial meeting of the task  
23 force.~~

24 ~~(c) The task force shall:~~

25 ~~(i) Oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign  
26 of the WorkFirst program and operation of the temporary assistance  
27 for needy families program to ensure that the programs are achieving  
28 desired outcomes for their clients;~~

29 ~~(ii) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst  
30 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of  
31 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language  
32 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;~~

33 ~~(iii) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients  
34 and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-  
35 sufficiency;~~

36 ~~(iv) Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature  
37 regarding:~~

38 ~~(A) Policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst  
39 program over time;~~



1 ~~(B) Early identification of those recipients most likely to~~  
2 ~~experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their~~  
3 ~~ability to achieve progress toward self-sufficiency; and~~

4 ~~(C) Necessary changes to the program, including taking into~~  
5 ~~account federal changes to the temporary assistance for needy~~  
6 ~~families program.~~

7 ~~(d) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular~~  
8 ~~reports on:~~

9 ~~(i) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and~~  
10 ~~performance measures established under (c) of this subsection;~~

11 ~~(ii) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of~~  
12 ~~those trends and expenditures on client services, including services~~  
13 ~~to historically underrepresented populations; and~~

14 ~~(iii) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful~~  
15 ~~on the program and have lost their benefits either through sanction~~  
16 ~~or the sixty-month time limit.~~

17 ~~(e) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate~~  
18 ~~committee services, the house of representatives office of program~~  
19 ~~research, and the state agency members of the task force.~~

20 ~~(f) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis beginning~~  
21 ~~September 2011, or as determined necessary by the task force~~  
22 ~~cochairs.~~

23 ~~(g) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task force~~  
24 ~~shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the~~  
25 ~~cochairs.))~~

26 **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.08A.341 and 2012 c 217 s 1 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
29 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
30 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, ((43.215.545)) 43.216.710, and 74.25.040, and  
31 chapter 74.12 RCW within the following constraints:

32 (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by  
33 the legislature and consistent with policy established by the  
34 legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the  
35 following additional outcomes:

36 (a) Recipients' economic status is improving through wage  
37 progression, job retention, and educational advancement;

38 (b) Recipients' status regarding housing stability, medical and  
39 behavioral health, and job readiness is improving;

1 (c) The well-being of children whose caretaker is receiving  
2 benefits on their behalf is improving with respect to child welfare  
3 and educational achievement.

4 (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows  
5 for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget  
6 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary  
7 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,  
8 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

9 (b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial  
10 spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this  
11 subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative  
12 fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty  
13 reduction oversight task force no later than July 1st of every odd-  
14 numbered year, beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update  
15 the legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending  
16 plan if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to  
17 the legislature and the task force for that biennium.

18 (c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the  
19 fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive  
20 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force beginning September  
21 1, 2012, and on a quarterly basis thereafter. If the department  
22 determines, based upon quarterly expenditure reports, that  
23 expenditures will exceed funding at the end of the fiscal year, the  
24 department shall take those actions necessary to ensure that services  
25 provided under this chapter are available only to the extent of and  
26 consistent with appropriations in the operating budget and policy  
27 established by the legislature following notification provided in (b)  
28 of this subsection.

29 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
30 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
31 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative  
32 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"  
33 does not include expenditures for information technology and  
34 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.  
35 104-193.

36 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work  
37 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services  
38 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290.

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