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HOUSE BILL 1566

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Pellicciotti, McDonald, Stambaugh, Gregerson, Ortiz-Self, Peterson, Riccelli, Stanford, Stonier, Kilduff, Holy, Ormsby, Haler, Bergquist, and Dolan

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of work activity for the  
2 purposes of the WorkFirst program; amending RCW 74.08A.250; and  
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.08A RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2013 c 39 s 27 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

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

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

10 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
11 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
12 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

13 (3) Work experience, including:

14 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is  
15 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a  
16 license or certificate in a high-demand occupation, as determined by  
17 the employment security department. No internship or practicum shall  
18 exceed twelve months; or

19 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted  
20 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;

21 (4) On-the-job training;

- 1 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 2 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary  
3 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter  
4 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is  
5 enrolled;
- 6 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed (~~twelve~~)  
7 twenty-four months with respect to any individual;
- 8 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 9 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
10 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school  
11 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;
- 12 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course  
13 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided  
14 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed  
15 secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 16 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is  
17 participating in a community service program;
- 18 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience  
19 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or  
20 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 21 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a  
22 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in  
23 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for  
24 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;
- 25 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3)  
26 and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;
- 27 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
28 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
29 stable; and
- 30 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
31 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
32 employment-related competencies.

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

35 The joint legislative audit and review committee must review the  
36 impact of extending the amount of vocational training time that  
37 qualifies for work activity from twelve months to twenty-four months.  
38 The review must include:

1           (1) An analysis of the increase in the number of participants  
2 that qualify for temporary assistance for needy families due to the  
3 extended training time; and

4           (2) A comparison of employment and earnings outcomes for  
5 individuals that qualified due to extended training time compared to  
6 other temporary assistance for needy families participants.

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