

SHB 2441 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/05/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2018 c 126 s 5 and 2018 c 58 s 8 are
4 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

5 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of
6 program eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments
7 shall be based upon factors that are critical to obtaining
8 employment, including but not limited to education, availability of
9 child care, history of family violence, history of substance abuse,
10 and other factors that affect the ability to obtain employment.
11 Assessments may be performed by the department or by a contracted
12 entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent,
13 transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies and
14 organizations serving the recipient.

15 (2) Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
16 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
17 for maximizing the recipient's success at meeting the employment
18 goal; (b) considers WorkFirst educational and training programs from
19 which the recipient could benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the
20 recipient to participate in the program by complying with the plan;
21 (d) moves the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as
22 quickly as possible; and (e) describes the services available to the
23 recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to
24 obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace and
25 increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

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

29 (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
30 required by the department, after two months of continuous
31 noncompliance, the family's grant shall be reduced by the recipient's

1 share (~~, and may, if the department determines it appropriate, be~~
2 ~~terminated~~) or by forty percent, whichever is greater, and must be
3 terminated after twelve months of continuous noncompliance.

4 (5) The department (~~may~~) shall waive the penalties required
5 under subsection (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the
6 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW
7 74.08A.270.

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

11 (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a
12 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging
13 in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the
14 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,
15 including information and resources available through the financial
16 education public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450.
17 The department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
18 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under
19 WorkFirst.

20 (8) Subsections (2) through (6) of this section are suspended for
21 a recipient who is a parent or other relative personally providing
22 care for a child under the age of two years. This suspension applies
23 to both one and two parent families. However, both parents in a two-
24 parent family cannot use the suspension during the same month.
25 Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a recipient from
26 participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2021.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies prospectively only and
29 not retroactively.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
31 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
32 provided by June 30, 2020, in the supplemental omnibus appropriations
33 act, this act is null and void."

ADOPTED 03/05/2020

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "families;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "reenacting and amending RCW
3 74.08A.260; creating new sections; and providing an effective date."

EFFECT: (1) Requires that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) terminate a family's grant after 12 months of continuous noncompliance.

(2) Removes sections that add criteria by which DSHS must exempt a recipient from the 60-month lifetime limit for benefits.

(3) Provides that the act applies prospectively and not retroactively.

(4) Adds a null and void clause.

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