

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2441

66th Legislature
2020 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 11, 2020
Yeas 56 Nays 41

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2020
Yeas 32 Nays 17

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2441** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2441

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2020 Regular Session

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2020 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Entenman, Fitzgibbon, Senn, Gregerson, Kilduff, Stonier, Davis, Macri, Ortiz-Self, Riccelli, Pettigrew, Pollet, Goodman, Wylie, and Doglio)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving access to temporary assistance for
2 needy families; reenacting and amending RCW 74.08A.260; creating new
3 sections; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

17 (2) Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
18 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
19 for maximizing the recipient's success at meeting the employment
20 goal; (b) considers WorkFirst educational and training programs from
21 which the recipient could benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the

1 recipient to participate in the program by complying with the plan;
2 (d) moves the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as
3 quickly as possible; and (e) describes the services available to the
4 recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to
5 obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace and
6 increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

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

10 (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
11 required by the department, after two months of continuous
12 noncompliance, the family's grant shall be reduced by the recipient's
13 share(~~(, and may, if the department determines it appropriate, be~~
14 ~~terminated)~~) or by forty percent, whichever is greater, and must be
15 terminated after twelve months of continuous noncompliance.

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

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

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

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies prospectively only and
2 not retroactively.

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

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