
HOUSE BILL 1268

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representative Mastin

Read first time 01/19/95. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to community work experience for recipients of aid
2 to families with dependent children; amending RCW 74.25.010 and
3 74.25.020; and adding a new section to chapter 74.25 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.25.010 and 1994 c 299 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature establishes as state policy the goal of economic
8 self-sufficiency for employable recipients of public assistance,
9 through employment, training, and education. In furtherance of this
10 policy, the legislature intends to comply with the requirements of the
11 federal social security act, as amended, by creating a job
12 opportunities and basic skills training program for applicants and
13 recipients of aid to families with dependent children. The purpose of
14 this program is to provide recipients of aid to families with dependent
15 children the opportunity to obtain appropriate education, training,
16 skills, and supportive services, including child care, consistent with
17 their needs, that will help them enter or reenter gainful employment,
18 thereby avoiding long-term welfare dependence and achieving economic
19 self-sufficiency. The program shall be operated by the department of

1 social and health services in conformance with federal law and
2 consistent with the following legislative findings:

3 (1) The legislature finds that the well-being of children depends
4 not only on meeting their material needs, but also on the ability of
5 parents to become economically self-sufficient. The job opportunities
6 and basic skills training program is specifically directed at
7 increasing the labor force participation and household earnings of aid
8 to families with dependent children recipients, through the removal of
9 barriers preventing them from achieving self-sufficiency. These
10 barriers include, but are not limited to, the lack of recent work
11 experience, supportive services such as affordable and reliable child
12 care, adequate transportation, appropriate counseling, and necessary
13 job-related tools, equipment, books, clothing, and supplies, the
14 absence of basic literacy skills, the lack of educational attainment
15 sufficient to meet labor market demands for career employees, and the
16 nonavailability of useful labor market assessments.

17 (2) The legislature also recognizes that aid to families with
18 dependent children recipients must be acknowledged as active
19 participants in self-sufficiency planning under the program. The
20 legislature finds that the department of social and health services
21 should communicate concepts of the importance of work and how
22 performance and effort directly affect future career and educational
23 opportunities and economic well-being, as well as personal empowerment,
24 self-motivation, and self-esteem to program participants. The
25 legislature further recognizes that informed choice is consistent with
26 individual responsibility, and that parents should be given a range of
27 options for available child care while participating in the program.

28 (3) The legislature finds that current work experience is one of
29 the most important factors influencing an individual's ability to work
30 toward financial stability and an adequate standard of living in the
31 long term, and that work experience should be the most important
32 component of the program.

33 (4) The legislature finds that education, including, but not
34 limited to, literacy, high school equivalency, vocational, secondary,
35 and postsecondary, is one of the most important tools an individual
36 needs to achieve full independence, and that this should be an
37 important component of the program.

38 (5) The legislature finds that participation in a program of
39 community service and work experience provides recipients of aid to

1 families with dependent children with valuable experience and training
2 which can assist them in achieving employment and financial stability,
3 and will also provide them with job-related behaviors and skills.

4 (6) The legislature further finds that the objectives of this
5 program are to assure that aid to families with dependent children
6 recipients gain experience in the labor force and thereby enhance their
7 long-term ability to achieve financial stability and an adequate
8 standard of living at wages that will meet family needs.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.25.020 and 1993 c 312 s 7 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The department of social and health services is authorized to
12 contract with public and private employment and training agencies and
13 other public service entities to provide services prescribed or allowed
14 under the federal social security act, as amended, to carry out the
15 purposes of the jobs training program. The department of social and
16 health services has sole authority and responsibility to carry out the
17 job opportunities and basic skills training program. No contracting
18 entity shall have the authority to review, change, or disapprove any
19 administrative decision, or otherwise substitute its judgment for that
20 of the department of social and health services as to the application
21 of policies and rules adopted by the department of social and health
22 services.

23 (2) To the extent feasible under federal law, the department of
24 social and health services and all entities contracting with it shall
25 give first priority of service to individuals volunteering for program
26 participation.

27 (3) The department of social and health services shall adopt rules
28 under chapter 34.05 RCW establishing criteria constituting
29 circumstances of good cause for an individual failing or refusing to
30 participate in an assigned program component, or failing or refusing to
31 accept or retain employment. These criteria shall include, but not be
32 limited to, the following circumstances: (a) If the individual is a
33 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
34 age six years, and the employment would require the individual to work
35 more than twenty hours per week; (b) if child care, or day care for an
36 incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent child,
37 is necessary for an individual to participate or continue participation
38 in the program or accept employment, and such care is not available,

1 and the department of social and health services fails to provide such
2 care; (c) the employment would result in the family of the participant
3 experiencing a net loss of cash income; or (d) circumstances that are
4 beyond the control of the individual's household, either on a short-
5 term or on an ongoing basis.

6 (4) The department of social and health services shall provide or
7 contract for a program of community work experience for recipients of
8 aid to families with dependent children, to the extent permitted under
9 federal law. The program shall actively involve recipients in
10 activities designed to promote community participation and development.
11 The department of social and health services shall establish criteria
12 constituting circumstances of compelling cause for an individual
13 failing or refusing to participate in the program of community work
14 experience established in this subsection. These criteria include, but
15 are not limited to, the following: (a) The individual is a parent or
16 other relative personally providing care for a child under six years of
17 age, and the employment would require the individual to participate
18 more than ten hours per week; (b) child care is necessary for an
19 individual to participate or continue participation in the program and
20 such care is not available, and the department of social and health
21 services fails to provide such care; or (c) extenuating circumstances
22 that are beyond the control of the individual's household, either on a
23 short-term or on an ongoing basis. The department of social and health
24 services shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to
25 effectuate the intent and purpose of this chapter.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 74.25 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 The department of social and health services shall seek all
29 necessary approvals from the federal government to permit recipients of
30 aid to families with dependent children to participate in a program of
31 community service and community involvement through the Washington
32 service corps.

--- END ---