
HOUSE BILL 1880

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Boldt, Benton, Schoesler, L. Thomas, Carrell, Johnson, Radcliff, Blanton, McMahan, Campbell, Smith, Honeyford, Silver and Thompson

Read first time 02/13/95. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to welfare fraud; amending RCW 74.08.290; and
2 creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that those individuals
5 who abuse and defraud the welfare system not only steal scarce
6 resources, but also perpetuate myths about people on public assistance.
7 The taxpayers of this state have limited resources with which to help
8 those in need and it is imperative that the legislature use its
9 authority to ensure that those resources are assisting the truly needy.

10 To protect the integrity of the welfare system the legislature must
11 put into place mechanisms that guard against abuse. The message must
12 be sent that we will not tolerate welfare fraud.

13 People who are caught abusing public trust by defrauding the
14 welfare system should be punished and not allowed to receive public
15 assistance.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08.290 and 1959 c 26 s 74.08.290 are each amended
17 to read as follows:

1 The department is hereby authorized to suspend temporarily the
2 public assistance granted to any person for any period during which
3 such person is not in need thereof.

4 If a recipient is convicted of any crime or offense, and punished
5 by imprisonment, no payment shall be made during the period of
6 imprisonment.

7 If a recipient or applicant is convicted of a crime under RCW
8 74.08.331, 9A.56.030, or 9A.56.040 in relation to the unlawful receipt
9 of public assistance, the recipient or applicant is ineligible for
10 public assistance for a period of five years from the date of
11 conviction. If a recipient or applicant is charged with a crime under
12 RCW 74.08.331, 9A.56.030, or 9A.56.040 in relation to the unlawful
13 receipt of public assistance, and enters into a deferred prosecution
14 agreement with the prosecutor or is convicted of a reduced charge under
15 a plea agreement, the recipient or applicant is ineligible to receive
16 public assistance for five years from the date of entry of the
17 agreement or conviction.

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