

ESSB 5921 - H AMD TO WAYS COMM AMD (H-2797.2/11) 778

By Representative Kagi

ADOPTED 05/13/2011

1 On page 4, beginning on line 1 of the striking amendment, strike
2 all material through "time." on page 5, line 38 and insert the
3 following:

4 "(b)(i) The period of suspension of work activities under this
5 subsection provides an opportunity for the legislative and executive
6 branches to oversee redesign of the WorkFirst program. To realize
7 this opportunity, both during the period of suspension and following
8 reinstatement of work activity requirements as redesign is being
9 implemented, a legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force
10 is established, with members as provided in this subsection.

11 (ii) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
12 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

13 (iii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
14 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
15 representatives.

16 (iv) The governor shall appoint members representing the
17 department of social and health services, the department of early
18 learning, the department of commerce, the employment security
19 department, the office of financial management, and the state board
20 for community and technical colleges.

21 (v) The task force shall choose cochairs, one from among the
22 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.
23 The legislative members shall convene the initial meeting of the
24 task force.

25 (c) The task force shall:

26 (i) Oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign
27 of the WorkFirst program and operation of the temporary assistance

1 for needy families program to ensure that the programs are achieving
2 desired outcomes for their clients;

3 (ii) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst
4 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs
5 of historically underrepresented populations, such as English
6 language learners, immigrants, refugees and other diverse
7 communities;

8 (iii) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients
9 and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-
10 sufficiency;

11 (iv) Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature
12 regarding:

13 (A) Policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst
14 program over time;

15 (B) Early identification of those recipients most likely to
16 experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their
17 ability to achieve progress toward self sufficiency; and

18 (C) Necessary changes to the program, including taking into
19 account federal changes to the temporary assistance for needy
20 families program.

21 (d) The partner agencies must provide the task force with
22 regular reports on:

23 (i) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome
24 and performance measures established under subsection (c) of this
25 section;

26 (ii) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of
27 those trends and expenditures on client services, including services
28 to historically underrepresented populations; and

29 (iii) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful
30 on the program and have lost their benefits either through sanction
31 or the sixty-month time limit.

32 (e) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
33 committee services, the house of representatives office of program
34 research, and the state agency members of the task force.

1 (f) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis beginning
2 September 2011, or as determined necessary by the task force
3 cochairs.

4 (g) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task
5 force shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the
6 cochairs."

7
8 On page 6, line 31, after "with the" strike "legislative
9 WorkFirst" insert "legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight"

10
11 On page 19, line 28 after "should be a" strike "top".
12

EFFECT: Removes the provisions establishing a legislative task force, the task force role and responsibilities.

Establishes a legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force and provides that the legislative-executive task force is to oversee the WorkFirst redesign, determine evidence-based accountability measures, develop outcomes, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

Provides that the accountability measures should include provisions related to equitably serving underrepresented populations.

Directs WorkFirst partner agencies to provide regular reports to legislative-executive taskforce and specifies the content of the reports.

Clarifies that eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse should be a priority, rather than top priority, of the Department of Social and Health Services.

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