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SENATE BILL 5643

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Darneille, Carrell, Harper, Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Kline, Chase, and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to exemptions from the five-year time limit for  
2 recipients of the temporary assistance for needy families program; and  
3 amending RCW 74.08A.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 6 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary  
8 assistance for needy families for sixty months after July 27, 1997,  
9 shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy families  
10 assistance.

11 (2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the  
12 department shall count any month in which an adult family member  
13 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance  
14 grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member  
15 was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the  
16 head of the household.

17 (3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-month  
18 time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and

1 ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any  
2 regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

3 (4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized  
4 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims' programs  
5 through the department of commerce, or the crime victims' compensation  
6 program of the department of labor and industries.

7 (5)(a) The department may exempt a recipient and the recipient's  
8 family from the application of subsection (1) of this section by reason  
9 of hardship or if the recipient meets the family violence options of  
10 section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal social security act as  
11 amended by P.L. 104-193.

12 (b) Exemptions under the family violence options must include  
13 situations where imposing the sixty-month limit on a recipient or his  
14 or her family members would unfairly penalize an individual who has  
15 experienced past family violence which disrupted the recipient's  
16 ability to obtain and keep employment or increase the recipient's wage  
17 earning potential over time.

18 (c) Hardship exemptions must include, but not be limited to, the  
19 following in order of priority:

20 (i) The recipient receives supplemental security income or social  
21 security disability, the recipient has an open child welfare case and  
22 it is the recipient's first child welfare case, the recipient meets the  
23 family violence criteria, or the recipient is a caretaker relative and  
24 is over fifty-five years of age;

25 (ii) The family is residing in a county with an unemployment rate  
26 of six percent or more;

27 (iii) A parent has a temporary mental or physical incapacity;

28 (iv) A parent is working in unsubsidized employment for more than  
29 twenty hours per week; or

30 (v) A parent is functionally illiterate.

31 (6) Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient will  
32 be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this  
33 section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own behalf, and  
34 parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child similarly, unless  
35 required otherwise under federal law.

36 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or  
37 her family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this

1 section until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of  
2 assistance under this chapter.

3 ~~((7))~~ (8) Beginning on October 31, 2005, the department shall  
4 provide transitional food stamp assistance for a period of five months  
5 to a household that ceases to receive temporary assistance for needy  
6 families assistance and is not in sanction status. If necessary, the  
7 department shall extend the household's food stamp certification until  
8 the end of the transition period.

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