
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5493

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Zeiger, Darneille, and Walsh)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to convening local communities to reduce
2 intergenerational poverty; and amending RCW 74.08A.280.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.280 and 1997 c 58 s 315 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that moving those ((eligible for
7 assistance)) living in poverty to self-sustaining employment is a
8 goal of ((the WorkFirst program. It is the intent of WorkFirst to))
9 public assistance programs and state poverty reduction efforts. State
10 poverty reduction efforts intend to effectively aid ((a participant's
11 progress)) families and individuals with low incomes in progressing
12 to self-sufficiency by allowing flexibility within ((the)) statewide
13 programs to reflect community resources, the local characteristics of
14 the labor market, and the ((composition of the caseload. Program
15 success)) needs of those experiencing poverty. Success in reducing
16 poverty, and the disparate impact of chronic and intergenerational
17 poverty on particular demographic groups, will be enhanced through
18 effective coordination and collaboration at regional and local
19 levels, involving employers, labor representatives, educators,
20 community leaders, ((local)) city, county, and tribal governments,

1 and behavioral health, housing, early learning, transportation, and
2 other social service providers.

3 (2) ~~The ((department, through its))~~ department's regional and
4 community service offices, through local service advisory and
5 partnership boards, shall collaborate with employers, public
6 assistance recipients, frontline workers, educational institutions,
7 labor, ((private industry councils, the workforce training and
8 education coordinating board)) workforce development councils,
9 community rehabilitation employment programs, employment and training
10 agencies, local governments, the employment security department, and
11 community action agencies to develop work and work preparations
12 programs that are effective ((and work)) in their communities. For
13 planning purposes, the department shall collect and make accessible
14 to regional offices and the local service area advisory and
15 partnership boards established under subsection (3) of this section,
16 successful work program models from around the United States((7
17 including the employment partnership program, apprenticeship
18 programs, microcredit, microenterprise, self-employment, and W-2
19 Wisconsin works)). Work programs shall incorporate local
20 ~~((volunteer))~~ citizens in their planning and implementation phases to
21 ensure community relevance and success.

22 (3) The department shall ensure that local service area advisory
23 and partnership boards are established and provide staffing
24 assistance to them. The local service area advisory and partnership
25 boards shall meet at least quarterly and shall:

26 (a) Promote effective communication and collaboration among
27 department local community service offices, local governments, and
28 other service providers;

29 (b) Advise and comment on department program policies;

30 (c) Work to resolve local issues including client referral and
31 service gaps;

32 (d) Review local data trends and public assistance client
33 feedback;

34 (e) Propose innovative and evidence-based collaborative services;
35 and

36 (f) Provide input for the plans developed under subsection (6) of
37 this section.

38 (4) To reduce administrative costs and to ensure equal statewide
39 access to services, the department may develop contracts for
40 statewide welfare-to-work services. These statewide contracts shall

1 support regional flexibility and ensure that resources follow local
2 labor market opportunities and public assistance recipients' needs.

3 ~~((4))~~ (5) The secretary shall establish ~~((WorkFirst))~~ service
4 areas for purposes of planning ~~((WorkFirst))~~ programs ~~((and for))~~,
5 distributing ~~((WorkFirst))~~ resources, and fostering local
6 collaborations with community partners to reduce chronic
7 intergenerational poverty in communities. Service areas shall reflect
8 department regions.

9 ~~((5))~~ (6) By July 31st of each odd-numbered year, a plan for
10 ~~((the WorkFirst program))~~ local collaboration shall be developed for
11 each ~~((region))~~ local service area. The plan shall be prepared in
12 consultation with local and regional sources, adapting the statewide
13 ~~((WorkFirst program))~~ services to achieve maximum effect for the
14 participants and the communities within which they reside. Local
15 consultation shall include to the greatest extent possible input from
16 local and regional planning bodies for social services and workforce
17 development. The regional and local administrator shall consult with
18 employers of various sizes, labor representatives, training and
19 education providers, program participants, economic development
20 organizations, community organizations, tribes, and local governments
21 in the preparation of the service area plan.

22 ~~((6))~~ (7) The secretary has final authority in plan approval or
23 modification. ~~((Regional))~~ Local service area program implementation
24 may deviate from the statewide program if specified in a service area
25 plan, as approved by the secretary.

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