
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5214

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Nguyen, Dhingra, Darneille, Das, Frockt, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Nobles, Robinson, Stanford, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic assistance programs; amending RCW
2 74.08A.010; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2020 c 320 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

10 (2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the
11 department (~~shall~~):

12 (a) 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; and

17 (b) Shall not count any month in which an adult family member
18 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance
19 grant if the adult family member did not qualify for any other time
20 limit exemption as provided for in subsection (5) of this section
21 when Washington's state average unemployment rate as published by the

1 Washington employment security department was equal to or greater
2 than seven percent.

3 (3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-
4 month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and
5 ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any
6 regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

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

11 (5) (a) The department shall add to adopted rules related to
12 temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions, the
13 following criteria by which the department shall exempt a recipient
14 and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of
15 this section:

16 (i) By reason of hardship, including when the recipient's family
17 includes a child or youth who is without a fixed, regular, and
18 adequate nighttime residence as described in the federal McKinney-
19 Vento homeless assistance act (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119,
20 subchapter VI, part B) as it existed on January 1, 2020; or

21 (ii) If the family includes an individual who meets the family
22 violence options of section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal
23 social security act as amended by P.L. 104-193.

24 (b) Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient
25 will be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of
26 this section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own
27 behalf, and parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child
28 similarly, unless required otherwise under federal law.

29 (6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her
30 family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section
31 until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance
32 under this chapter.

33 (7) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for
34 a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive
35 temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in
36 sanction status. If necessary, the department shall extend the
37 household's basic food certification until the end of the transition
38 period.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act applies prospectively and
2 retroactively beginning March 1, 2020.

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