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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5785**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Lovelett, C. Wilson, Das, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Nobles, Saldaña, and Stanford; by request of Department of Social and Health Services)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to transitional food assistance; amending RCW  
2 74.08A.010; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2021 c 239 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 count any month in which an adult family member  
12 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance  
13 grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member  
14 was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the  
15 head of the household.

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

20 (4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized  
21 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims'

1 programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'  
2 compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

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

8 (i) By reason of hardship, including when:

9 (A) The recipient's family includes a child or youth who is  
10 without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as  
11 described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act  
12 (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter VI, part B) as it existed  
13 on January 1, 2020; or

14 (B) The recipient received temporary assistance for needy  
15 families during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when Washington  
16 state's unemployment rate as published by the Washington employment  
17 security department was equal to or greater than seven percent, and  
18 the recipient is otherwise eligible for temporary assistance for  
19 needy families except that they have exceeded 60 months. The  
20 extension provided for under this subsection (5) (a) (i) (B) is equal to  
21 the number of months that the recipient received temporary assistance  
22 for needy families during a month after March 1, 2020, when the  
23 unemployment rate was equal to or greater than seven percent, and is  
24 applied sequentially to any other hardship extensions that may apply  
25 under this subsection (5) or in rule; or

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

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

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

38 (7) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for  
39 a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive  
40 temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in

1 full-family sanction status. If a member of a household has been  
2 sanctioned but the household is still receiving benefits, the  
3 remaining eligible household members may receive transitional food  
4 assistance. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's  
5 basic food certification until the end of the transition period.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect January 1, 2024.

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