
HOUSE BILL 2827

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Mielke, Tate, Hochstatter, Bowman, P. Johnson, Morton, Lisk, Padden, Moyer, Ferguson, Ballard, Brumsickle, D. Sommers, Paris, McLean, May, Chandler, Horn, Edmondson, Prince, Fuhrman, Betrozoff, Wood, Broback, Neher, Forner, Beck, Carlson, Nealey and Van Luven

Read first time 01/28/92. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic empowerment; amending RCW 74.04.005,
2 74.12.240, and 74.12.245; adding new sections to chapter 74.12 RCW; and
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that welfare was
6 conceived as a temporary relief program, recognizing that families can
7 be temporarily placed in a financial crisis at any time in life.
8 Successful welfare programs depend on the availability of adequate
9 resources to assist individuals deemed eligible for the benefits of
10 such a program. In this way, eligible families are given sufficient
11 assistance to reenter productive employment in a minimal time period.
12 When eligibility for welfare is not clearly defined or enforced,
13 resources are consumed for purposes other than the public intends and
14 result in a shortage of resources for eligible recipients.

1 The legislature finds that the aid to families with dependent
2 children program and family independence program have fallen short in
3 their efforts to return program participants to the work force and that
4 even when Washington has experienced periods of economic growth,
5 caseloads have continued to rise. These programs attempt to address
6 material poverty, but in doing so, create disincentives and a
7 behavioral poverty that include declining work efforts, increased
8 illegitimate births, single parenthood, and prolonged welfare
9 dependency.

10 The economic empowerment act seeks to promote the formation of
11 healthy, two-parent families, reward work effort, and promote personal
12 responsibility to include education, parental responsibility, job
13 training, community enhancement activity, and gainful employment. The
14 economic empowerment act further recognizes limited resources mandate
15 that resources are best used when directed towards those individuals
16 most motivated to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the
18 economic empowerment act.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.04.005 and 1991 sp.s. c 10 s 1 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 For the purposes of this title, unless the context indicates
22 otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

23 (1) "Public assistance" or "assistance"--Temporary public aid to
24 persons demonstrably in need thereof for any cause, including services,
25 medical care, assistance grants, disbursing orders, work relief,
26 general assistance and federal-aid assistance.

27 (2) "Department"--The department of social and health services.

1 (3) "County or local office"--The administrative office for one or
2 more counties or designated service areas.

3 (4) "Director" or "secretary" means the secretary of social and
4 health services.

5 (5) "Federal-aid assistance"--The specific categories of temporary
6 assistance for which provision is made in any federal law existing or
7 hereafter passed by which payments are made from the federal government
8 to the state in aid or in respect to payment by the state for public
9 assistance rendered to any category of demonstrably needy persons for
10 which provision for federal funds or aid may from time to time be made,
11 or a federally administered needs-based program.

12 (6)(a) "General assistance"--Aid to persons in need who:

13 (i) Are not eligible to receive federal-aid assistance, other than
14 food stamps and medical assistance; however, an individual who refuses
15 or fails to cooperate in obtaining federal-aid assistance, without good
16 cause, is not eligible for general assistance;

17 (ii) Are either:

18 (A) Pregnant: PROVIDED, That need is based on the current income
19 and resource requirements of the federal aid to families with dependent
20 children program: PROVIDED FURTHER, That during any period in which an
21 aid for dependent children employable program is not in operation, only
22 those pregnant women who are categorically eligible for medicaid are
23 eligible for general assistance; or

24 (B) Incapacitated from gainful employment by reason of bodily or
25 mental infirmity that will likely continue for a minimum of ninety days
26 as determined by the department. Persons who are unemployable due to
27 alcohol or drug addiction are not eligible for general assistance.
28 Persons receiving general assistance on July 26, 1987, or becoming
29 eligible for such assistance thereafter, due to an alcohol or drug-
30 related incapacity, shall be referred to appropriate assessment,

1 treatment, shelter, or supplemental security income referral services
2 as authorized under chapter 74.50 RCW. Referrals shall be made at the
3 time of application or at the time of eligibility review. Alcoholic
4 and drug addicted clients who are receiving general assistance on July
5 26, 1987, may remain on general assistance if they otherwise retain
6 their eligibility until they are assessed for services under chapter
7 74.50 RCW. This subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) shall not be construed to
8 prohibit the department from granting general assistance benefits to
9 alcoholics and drug addicts who are incapacitated due to other physical
10 or mental conditions that meet the eligibility criteria for the general
11 assistance program;

12 (iii) Are citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent
13 residence or otherwise residing in the United States under color of
14 law; and

15 (iv) Have furnished the department their social security account
16 number. If the social security account number cannot be furnished
17 because it has not been issued or is not known, an application for a
18 number shall be made prior to authorization of assistance, and the
19 social security number shall be provided to the department upon
20 receipt.

21 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6)(a)(i), (ii),
22 and (c) of this section, general assistance shall be provided to the
23 following recipients of federal-aid assistance:

24 (i) Recipients of supplemental security income whose need, as
25 defined in this section, is not met by such supplemental security
26 income grant because of separation from a spouse; or

27 (ii) To the extent authorized by the legislature in the biennial
28 appropriations act, to recipients of aid to families with dependent
29 children whose needs are not being met because of a temporary reduction
30 in monthly income below the entitled benefit payment level caused by

1 loss or reduction of wages or unemployment compensation benefits or
2 some other unforeseen circumstances. The amount of general assistance
3 authorized shall not exceed the difference between the entitled benefit
4 payment level and the amount of income actually received.

5 (c) General assistance shall be provided only to persons who are
6 not members of assistance units receiving federal aid assistance,
7 except as provided in subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) and (b) of this section,
8 and will accept available services which can reasonably be expected to
9 enable the person to work or reduce the need for assistance unless
10 there is good cause to refuse. Failure to accept such services shall
11 result in termination until the person agrees to cooperate in accepting
12 such services and subject to the following maximum periods of
13 ineligibility after reapplication:

14 (i) First failure: One week;

15 (ii) Second failure within six months: One month;

16 (iii) Third and subsequent failure within one year: Two months.

17 (d) The department shall adopt by rule medical criteria for general
18 assistance eligibility to ensure that eligibility decisions are
19 consistent with statutory requirements and are based on clear,
20 objective medical information.

21 (e) The process implementing the medical criteria shall involve
22 consideration of opinions of the treating or consulting physicians or
23 health care professionals regarding incapacity, and any eligibility
24 decision which rejects uncontroverted medical opinion must set forth
25 clear and convincing reasons for doing so.

26 (f) Recipients of general assistance based upon a finding of
27 incapacity from gainful employment who remain otherwise eligible shall
28 not have their benefits terminated absent a clear showing of material
29 improvement in their medical or mental condition or specific error in
30 the prior determination that found the recipient eligible by reason of

1 incapacitation. Recipients of general assistance based upon pregnancy
2 who relinquish their child for adoption, remain otherwise eligible, and
3 are not eligible to receive benefits under the federal aid to families
4 with dependent children program shall not have their benefits
5 terminated until the end of the month in which the period of six weeks
6 following the birth of the recipient's child falls. Recipients of the
7 federal aid to families with dependent children program who lose their
8 eligibility solely because of the birth and relinquishment of the
9 qualifying child may receive general assistance through the end of the
10 month in which the period of six weeks following the birth of the child
11 falls.

12 (7) "Applicant"--Any person who has made a request, or on behalf of
13 whom a request has been made, to any county or local office for
14 temporary assistance.

15 (8) "Recipient"--Any person receiving temporary assistance and in
16 addition those dependents whose needs are included in the recipient's
17 assistance.

18 (9) "Standards of assistance"--The level of income required by an
19 applicant or recipient to maintain a level of living specified by the
20 department.

21 (10) "Resource"--Any asset, tangible or intangible, owned by or
22 available to the applicant at the time of application, which can be
23 applied toward meeting the applicant's need, either directly or by
24 conversion into money or its equivalent: PROVIDED, That an applicant
25 may retain the following described resources and not be ineligible for
26 public assistance because of such resources.

27 (a) A home, which is defined as real property owned and used by an
28 applicant or recipient as a place of residence, together with a
29 reasonable amount of property surrounding and contiguous thereto, which
30 is used by and useful to the applicant. Whenever a recipient shall

1 cease to use such property for residential purposes, either for himself
2 or his dependents, the property shall be considered as a resource which
3 can be made available to meet need, and if the recipient or his
4 dependents absent themselves from the home for a period of ninety
5 consecutive days such absence, unless due to hospitalization or health
6 reasons or a natural disaster, shall raise a rebuttable presumption of
7 abandonment: PROVIDED, That if in the opinion of three physicians the
8 recipient will be unable to return to the home during his lifetime, and
9 the home is not occupied by a spouse or dependent children or disabled
10 sons or daughters, such property shall be considered as a resource
11 which can be made available to meet need.

12 (b) Household furnishings and personal effects and other personal
13 property having great sentimental value to the applicant or recipient,
14 as limited by the department consistent with limitations on resources
15 and exemptions for federal aid assistance.

16 (c) A motor vehicle, other than a motor home, used and useful
17 having an equity value not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars.

18 (d) All other resources, including any excess of values exempted,
19 not to exceed one thousand dollars or other limit as set by the
20 department, to be consistent with limitations on resources and
21 exemptions necessary for federal aid assistance. The department shall
22 also allow recipients of aid to families with dependent children to
23 exempt savings accounts with balances up to an additional one thousand
24 five hundred dollars which may only be used to make rental deposits,
25 cover moving expenses, auto repair, household appliance repair and
26 replacement, clothing, holiday and birthday expenses, and other
27 incidental expenses.

28 (e) Applicants for or recipients of general assistance may retain
29 the following described resources in addition to exemption for a motor

1 vehicle or home and not be ineligible for public assistance because of
2 such resources:

3 (i) Household furnishings, personal effects, and other personal
4 property having great sentimental value to the applicant or recipient;

5 (ii) Term and burial insurance for use of the applicant or
6 recipient;

7 (iii) Life insurance having a cash surrender value not exceeding
8 one thousand five hundred dollars; and

9 (iv) Cash, marketable securities, and any excess of values above
10 one thousand five hundred dollars equity in a vehicle and above one
11 thousand five hundred dollars in cash surrender value of life
12 insurance, not exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars for a single
13 person or two thousand two hundred fifty dollars for a family unit of
14 two or more. The one thousand dollar limit in subsection (10)(d) of
15 this section does not apply to recipients of or applicants for general
16 assistance.

17 (f) If an applicant for or recipient of public assistance possesses
18 property and belongings in excess of the ceiling value, such value
19 shall be used in determining the need of the applicant or recipient,
20 except that: (i) The department may exempt resources or income when
21 the income and resources are determined necessary to the applicant's or
22 recipient's restoration to independence, to decrease the need for
23 public assistance, or to aid in rehabilitating the applicant or
24 recipient or a dependent of the applicant or recipient; and (ii) the
25 department may provide grant assistance for a period not to exceed nine
26 months from the date the agreement is signed pursuant to this section
27 to persons who are otherwise ineligible because of excess real property
28 owned by such persons when they are making a good faith effort to
29 dispose of that property: PROVIDED, That:

1 (A) The applicant or recipient signs an agreement to repay the
2 lesser of the amount of aid received or the net proceeds of such sale;

3 (B) If the owner of the excess property ceases to make good faith
4 efforts to sell the property, the entire amount of assistance may
5 become an overpayment and a debt due the state and may be recovered
6 pursuant to RCW 43.20B.630;

7 (C) Applicants and recipients are advised of their right to a fair
8 hearing and afforded the opportunity to challenge a decision that good
9 faith efforts to sell have ceased, prior to assessment of an
10 overpayment under this section; and

11 (D) At the time assistance is authorized, the department files a
12 lien without a sum certain on the specific property.

13 (11) "Income"--(a) All appreciable gains in real or personal
14 property (cash or kind) or other assets, which are received by or
15 become available for use and enjoyment by an applicant or recipient
16 during the month of application or after applying for or receiving
17 public assistance. The department may by rule and regulation exempt
18 income received by an applicant for or recipient of public assistance
19 which can be used by him to decrease his need for public assistance or
20 to aid in rehabilitating him or his dependents, but such exemption
21 shall not, unless otherwise provided in this title, exceed the
22 exemptions of resources granted under this chapter to an applicant for
23 public assistance. In determining the amount of assistance to which an
24 applicant or recipient of aid to families with dependent children is
25 entitled, the department is hereby authorized to disregard as a
26 resource or income the earned income exemptions consistent with federal
27 requirements. The department may permit the above exemption of
28 earnings of a child to be retained by such child to cover the cost of
29 special future identifiable needs even though the total exceeds the
30 exemptions or resources granted to applicants and recipients of public

1 assistance, but consistent with federal requirements. In formulating
2 rules and regulations pursuant to this chapter, the department shall
3 define income and resources and the availability thereof, consistent
4 with federal requirements. All resources and income not specifically
5 exempted, and any income or other economic benefit derived from the use
6 of, or appreciation in value of, exempt resources, shall be considered
7 in determining the need of an applicant or recipient of public
8 assistance.

9 (b) If, under applicable federal requirements, the state has the
10 option of considering property in the form of lump sum compensatory
11 awards or related settlements received by an applicant or recipient as
12 income or as a resource, the department shall consider such property to
13 be a resource.

14 (12) "Need"--The difference between the applicant's or recipient's
15 standards of assistance for himself and the dependent members of his
16 family, as measured by the standards of the department, and value of
17 all nonexempt resources and nonexempt income received by or available
18 to the applicant or recipient and the dependent members of his family.

19 (13) For purposes of determining eligibility for public assistance
20 and participation levels in the cost of medical care, the department
21 shall exempt restitution payments made to people of Japanese and Aleut
22 ancestry pursuant to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the Aleutian
23 and Pribilof Island Restitution Act passed by congress, P.L. 100-383,
24 including all income and resources derived therefrom.

25 (14) In the construction of words and phrases used in this title,
26 the singular number shall include the plural, the masculine gender
27 shall include both the feminine and neuter genders and the present
28 tense shall include the past and future tenses, unless the context
29 thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.12.240 and 1959 c 26 s 74.12.240 are each amended
2 to read as follows:

3 The department is authorized to provide such social and related
4 services as are reasonably necessary to encourage the care of dependent
5 children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, to help
6 maintain and strengthen family life and to help such parents or
7 relatives to attain maximum self-support and personal independence
8 consistent with the maintenance of continuing parental care and
9 protection. The department may provide, where available, temporary
10 child care and transportation related to program and work-related
11 activities for recipients demonstrably in need where there are no other
12 alternatives. In the provision of such services, maximum utilization
13 of other agencies providing similar or related services shall be
14 effected.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.12.245 and 1988 c 170 s 2 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 The secretary of social and health services shall seek an exception
18 to federal law under the waiver authorities set forth in the federal
19 social security act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq., for the purposes of
20 allowing recipients of aid to families with dependent children to
21 become self-employed in a manner that will lead to economic
22 independence. The application for waivers shall be sought by October
23 1, (~~1988~~) 1992.

24 If the waivers are obtained, the department shall adopt rules that
25 allow a recipient to separate business assets from personal assets
26 during a start-up period not exceeding two years. The rules shall
27 provide for evaluation of business progress during the start-up period
28 and, if it appears to the department that sufficient income exists to
29 provide an adequate income to replace the aid to families with

1 dependent children, the recipient has the burden of showing why the
2 recipient is not ready to terminate the aid prior to the expiration of
3 the start-up period.

4 The rules shall also provide for deductions from income for
5 business expenses including but not limited to capital expenditures,
6 payments on the principal of loans to the business and reasonable
7 amounts for cash reserves.

8 Any program operated under this section shall be operated in
9 cooperation with any demonstration project on self-entrepreneurship
10 operated by the employment security department.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Eligible applicants for aid to families
12 with dependent children with a residency of fewer than six months shall
13 receive a grant equal to the lesser of the amount provided in the state
14 of previous residence or Washington state. If the grant is based on
15 the grant level in another state, it shall remain in effect for six
16 months, after which it shall increase to the amount provided in
17 Washington state.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Eligible applicants for aid to families
19 with dependent children shall receive a grant based on the family size
20 at the time of application to include children born and yet-to-be born.
21 The grant amount shall not be increased for the addition of any
22 subsequent children.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** At the time of application for aid to
24 families with dependent children, the applicant shall:

25 (1) Provide the name, last known address, and place of employment
26 of the absent parent, a copy of any court order regarding divorce,
27 dissolution, child custody, child support, alimony, or spousal support;

1 (2) Complete an education, employment, and vocational skills
2 assessment; and

3 (3) Birth certificates of all dependent children.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Eligible applicants for aid to families
5 with dependent children who are under the age of twenty who do not have
6 a high school diploma or GED at the time of application shall enroll
7 in, and show satisfactory progress toward completion of, a high school
8 or a GED degree within six months of application for at least ninety
9 days. Failure to do so shall result in termination from the program.
10 A recipient is exempt from this section if (1) he or she is the parent
11 of a child under three months of age, living in the home; or (2) child
12 care is needed for the teenager to attend school, but licensed or
13 certified child care is not available; or (3) transportation to and
14 from child care is needed for the recipient's child and there is no
15 transportation available.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Recipients of aid to families with
17 dependent children shall enter into a contract with the state of
18 Washington specifying the rights and responsibilities of each party for
19 the subsequent six months. The contract shall include a list of all
20 benefits for which the recipient is eligible and the responsibilities
21 required to receive those benefits. The contracts shall also
22 specifically state that the grant amount shall not be increased for the
23 addition of any additional children subsequent to the time of initial
24 application to the program. Contracts shall be renegotiated on a six-
25 month basis for the duration of the recipient's receipt of aid to
26 families with dependent children. The contract may be renegotiated
27 under limited emergency circumstances specified by the department by
28 rule.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Recipients of aid to families with
2 dependent children who have children enrolled in kindergarten through
3 eighth grade shall be responsible for their children's classroom
4 attendance. They shall receive a warning the first time their child
5 receives three or more unexcused absences in one month. If a
6 recipient's child fails to meet the attendance requirement in any
7 subsequent month, the recipient's grant shall be reduced by twenty
8 percent for each month. If a recipient's child fails to meet the
9 attendance requirement three or more months in one school year, the
10 recipient shall lose his or her grant for at least ninety days. The
11 recipient may reapply for assistance after the ninety-day period.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The following copayments shall apply to
13 all medical treatment provided to recipients of aid to families with
14 dependent children and their dependents:

15 (1) All visits to county health departments and community health
16 clinics shall have no copayment;

17 (2) All visits to physicians shall have a ten-dollar copayment; and

18 (3) All visits to hospital emergency rooms shall have a twenty-
19 five-dollar copayment.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** (1) Forty percent of the funds collected
21 under section 12 of this act shall be deposited in the basic health
22 plan trust account created under RCW 70.47.030.

23 (2) Sixty percent of the funds collected under section 12 of this
24 act shall be retained and the organizations or individuals specified in
25 section 12 (2) and (3) of this act.

26 (3) The secretary shall establish rules for the collection and
27 distribution of funds under subsection (1) of this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Able-bodied recipients of aid to
2 families with dependent children who have completed a high school or
3 GED degree or are over twenty years of age and have received benefits
4 for six months shall participate in community enhancement activities.
5 The maximum number of hours required per month shall be determined by
6 dividing the grant level by three times the higher of the state or
7 federal minimum wage. For the purposes of this section, "community
8 enhancement activity" means work for nonprofit organizations such as
9 food banks, shelters, senior citizen programs, and cities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** The department shall petition the
11 federal government for waivers under the family independence program
12 and the jobs opportunities and basic skills programs. Under the terms
13 of the waiver, recipients of public assistance who are in job training
14 programs shall not have the amount of their public assistance grants
15 reduced to offset the income received from financial aid, including
16 scholarships, grants, and loans, or internship or work-study employment
17 related to their specific job training program.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Upon the effective date of the waivers
19 granted under section 15 of this act, recipients of public assistance
20 under the family independence program and the jobs opportunities and
21 basic skills programs shall not have their public assistance grants
22 reduced to offset the income received from internship or work-study
23 employment that is related to their job training programs.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** Recipients of aid to families with
25 dependent children shall receive transitional benefits for eighteen
26 months after the recipient finds employment or until the recipient's
27 income reaches one hundred fifty percent of the grant level established

1 by RCW 74.04.770, whichever occurs first. Transitional benefits
2 include services provided under RCW 74.12.240 and medical assistance
3 under chapter 74.09 RCW.

4 At the end of the transition period, the department, whenever
5 possible, shall expedite the transfer of eligible recipients to the
6 Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** Grant payments to recipients of aid to
8 families with dependent children shall be reduced to offset income only
9 to the extent that for every one dollar of earned income, recipients
10 would have their grant payment reduced by seventy-five cents to a
11 combined maximum of one hundred fifty percent of the grant standard.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** The department shall, within existing
13 staffing, investigate all complaints of fraud involving public
14 assistance. The department shall prepare an annual report to the
15 appropriate committees of the legislature that includes: (1) The
16 number of complaints received; (2) the number of complaints
17 investigated; and (3) the results of the investigations. The
18 department shall identify the cost associated with conducting
19 investigations under this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** In addition to any action authorized
21 under RCW 74.04.300, 74.08.290, 74.08.331, 74.08.335, and 74.08.338, an
22 individual who has defrauded the aid to families with dependent
23 children program is prohibited from collecting any benefit from the
24 program for a period of ten years. Every effort shall be made to
25 recover the defrauded amount.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** Individuals eligible to receive aid to
2 families with dependent children may receive a maximum of seventy-two
3 cumulative months of assistance. For the first forty-eight months the
4 recipient shall receive one hundred percent of the grant payment; for
5 the last twenty-four months the recipient shall receive fifty percent
6 of the grant payment. If the individual leaves the program before
7 reaching the seventy-second month, the individual shall re-enter the
8 program and be eligible for only the balance of the seventy-two month
9 period remaining at the time of departure. An individual who exhausts
10 seventy-two months of assistance may reapply for aid to families with
11 dependent children only after sixty months have elapsed since the
12 period of ineligibility.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** The department shall provide the current
14 amount of the grant designated for housing directly to the landlord of
15 a recipient of aid to families with dependent children.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** The department shall petition the
17 federal government for waivers from all applicable rules necessary to
18 ensure that the provisions of sections 3, 6 through 22, 25, and 29 of
19 this act are implemented.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** Recipients of public assistance may
21 receive a maximum of three years of higher education. For recipients
22 who have a four-year degree or postgraduate degree, an acceptable
23 education program shall be limited to vocational training.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** (1) As used in this section:

1 (a) "Benefits" means benefits provided under the program of aid to
2 families with dependent children established pursuant to P.L. 1959, c.
3 86.

4 (b) "Eligible parent" means a person who is or would be eligible
5 for benefits based upon the income of that person and the person's
6 natural children.

7 (2) An eligible parent who is married to a person who is not the
8 parent of one or more of the eligible parent's children shall not be
9 eligible for benefits if the household income exceeds the state
10 eligibility standard for benefits. However, the eligible parent's
11 natural children shall be eligible for benefits according to a sliding
12 income scale established by the secretary that does not take into
13 account the income of the eligible parent's spouse, if the total annual
14 household income does not exceed one hundred fifty percent of the
15 official poverty level, adjusted for family size, established pursuant
16 to section 673(2) of Subtitle B, the community services block grant act
17 of P.L. 97-35 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9902(2)). The spouse of the eligible
18 parent and the spouse's natural child, if any, who is not the eligible
19 parent's natural child, who is living with the family shall not be
20 eligible for benefits.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 26.** The administrative cost of operating the
22 public assistance program shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the
23 total cost of providing public assistance to eligible recipients in the
24 state of Washington.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 27.** The secretary of social and health
26 services shall adopt rules as necessary, under chapter 34.05 RCW, to
27 implement sections 6 through 29 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 28.** The department is prohibited from
2 providing recipients with personal property items such as, but not
3 limited to, appliances, furniture, automobiles, and automobile parts.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 29.** Sections 6 through 28 of this act shall
5 be implemented initially in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane
6 counties. The secretary shall implement a schedule to phase-in the
7 remaining counties.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 30.** Sections 6 through 29 of this act are
9 each added to chapter 74.12 RCW.