## HOUSE BILL 2792

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**State of Washington        53rd Legislature        1994 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives H. Myers, Jones, Basich, Quall and Cothern

Read first time 01/24/94.  Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1    AN ACT Relating to the job opportunities and basic skills program;
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.25 RCW; creating new sections; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5    NEW SECTION.  **Sec. 1.**  (1) The legislature finds that effective use
6 of state and federal job opportunities and basic skills program funds
7 is essential, because of the positive results such expenditures can
8 have for individuals and the state.  Helping income assistance
9 recipients who have been receiving assistance for several years find
10 employment at wages that will meet family needs allows these
11 individuals to achieve financial self-sufficiency and reduces state
12 public assistance expenditures.
13    (2) The legislature intends to determine whether a more flexible
14 community-based approach to increasing basic skills and job
15 opportunities for income assistance recipients who have been receiving
16 assistance for several years can result in a greater number of these
17 recipients achieving financial self-sufficiency than under the current
18 system for administering job opportunities and basic skills program
19 funds.

1    NEW SECTION.  **Sec. 2.**  A new section is added to chapter 74.25 RCW
2  to read as follows:
3     (1)  In  five  counties,  geographically  distributed  throughout
4  Washington  state,  the  department  shall,  within  available  funds,
5  establish alternative job opportunities and basic skills programs.
6     (2) In establishing the alternative programs, the department shall:
7     (a)  Contract  with  community-based  nonprofit  organizations  to
8  provide  intensive  case  management,  basic  skills  training,  job  or
9  vocational training, job development, job search, and support services
10  to income assistance recipients who have been receiving assistance for
11  a period of at least thirty-six months of the preceding sixty months.
12  Contracted  services  may  be  provided  directly  by  the  contracting
13  community-based  nonprofit  organization,  by  subcontract  with  other
14  entities, or through direct purchases of goods or services;
15     (b) Provide that participation in the program by public assistance
16  recipients is voluntary;
17     (c) Ensure  that  recipients  participating  in  the  program  receive
18  intensive  case  management  services  that  address  their  individual  and
19  family needs;
20     (d) Broadly define support services to include any services needed
21  by the recipient to achieve self-sufficiency; and
22     (e) Provide  that  if  a  participating  recipient,  after  receiving
23  services  under  this  alternative  program  for  twenty-four  months  or
24  completing  an  established  vocational  education  program,  whichever  is
25  later,  has  not  terminated  their  receipt  of  income  assistance,  that
26  participating  recipient's  income  assistance  grant  will  be  reduced  by
27  ten  percent  for  the  year  following  the  month  in  which  the  twelve-month
28  period  expired  or  an  established  vocational  education  program  was
29  completed,  whichever  is  later,  and by  an  additional  fifteen  percent  for
30  any subsequent year.
31     (3) Evaluation of the programs established under this section shall
32  measure the following outcomes:
33     (a) The number of participating recipients in the program who found
34  employment; and
35     (b) Whether the jobs found had compensation sufficient to allow the
36  recipients to achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency.

1    NEW SECTION.  **Sec. 3.**  On or before July 1, 1994, the department
2 shall request any congressional or federal regulatory authorization
3 necessary to implement this act.

4    NEW SECTION.  **Sec. 4.**  This act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
6 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
7 effect immediately.

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