
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6167

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Labor & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley and Thibaudeau)

Read first time 01/31/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to public assistance; amending RCW 74.08.050 and
2 74.09.530; and adding a new section to chapter 74.08A RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08.050 and 1971 ex.s. c 169 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Application for a grant in any category of public assistance shall
7 be made to the county office by the applicant or by another on ~~((his))~~
8 the applicant's behalf, and shall be reduced to writing upon a standard
9 form~~((s))~~ prescribed by the department, and a written acknowledgment of
10 receipt of the application by the department shall be given to each
11 applicant at the time of making application. The application form
12 shall be streamlined so that applicants for various types of public
13 assistance can be identified and cross-referred to programs for which
14 they are eligible, based upon a single, universal assistance
15 application form.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 The department shall convene a working group that includes
2 stakeholders and recipients of public assistance to establish basic
3 customer service performance measures and goals. The customer service
4 measures and goals will seek to make support for working families a
5 priority. Customer service measures may include, but are not limited
6 to: Hours of operation that allow working families to get services
7 without missing work; streamlining requirements to make it easier for
8 working families to begin and continue using supportive benefits; wait
9 times; access to benefits that support work; access to job training
10 and education; and access to services for families with limited
11 literacy or English skills, and families with special needs.

12 The department shall report to the legislature by January 2001 and
13 make available to the public the establishment of customer service
14 measures and goals, the process for agreeing on those measures and
15 goals, and departmental action to assure the goals are being met. The
16 department shall make a written report to the legislature on the
17 ongoing attainment of customer service goals twice per year.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.09.530 and 1979 c 141 s 345 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 The amount and nature of medical assistance and the determination
21 of eligibility of recipients for medical assistance shall be the
22 responsibility of the department of social and health services. The
23 department shall establish reasonable standards of assistance and
24 resource and income exemptions which shall be consistent with the
25 provisions of the Social Security Act and with the regulations of the
26 secretary of health, education and welfare for determining eligibility
27 of individuals for medical assistance and the extent of such assistance
28 to the extent that funds are available from the state and federal
29 government. The department shall not consider assets in determining
30 eligibility for medical assistance programs.

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