
SENATE BILL 6167

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator Fairley

Read first time 01/10/2000. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to public assistance; amending RCW 74.04.025 and
2 74.08.050; and repealing RCW 74.25.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.04.025 and 1998 c 245 s 143 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department and the office of administrative hearings shall
7 ensure that bilingual services are provided to non-English speaking
8 applicants and recipients. The services shall be provided to the
9 extent necessary to assure that non-English speaking persons are not
10 denied, or unable to obtain or maintain, services or benefits because
11 of their inability to speak English.

12 (2) If the number of non-English speaking applicants or recipients
13 sharing the same language served by any community service office client
14 contact job classification equals or exceeds fifty percent of the
15 average caseload of a full-time position in such classification, the
16 department shall, through attrition, employ bilingual personnel to
17 serve such applicants or recipients.

18 (3) Regardless of the applicant or recipient caseload of any
19 community service office, each community service office shall ensure

1 that bilingual services required to supplement the community service
2 office staff are provided through contracts with interpreters, local
3 agencies, or other community resources.

4 (4) Initial client contact materials shall inform clients in all
5 primary languages of the availability of interpretation services for
6 non-English speaking persons. Basic informational pamphlets shall be
7 translated into all primary languages.

8 (5) To the extent all written communications directed to applicants
9 or recipients are not in the primary language of the applicant or
10 recipient, the department and the office of administrative hearings
11 shall include with the written communication a notice in all primary
12 languages of applicants or recipients describing the significance of
13 the communication and specifically how the applicants or recipients may
14 receive assistance in understanding, and responding to if necessary,
15 the written communication. The department shall assure that sufficient
16 resources are available to assist applicants and recipients in a timely
17 fashion with understanding, responding to, and complying with the
18 requirements of all such written communications.

19 (6) As used in this section, "primary languages" includes but is
20 not limited to Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Russian, and
21 Chinese.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08.050 and 1971 ex.s. c 169 s 3 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Application for a grant in any category of public assistance shall
25 be made to the county office by the applicant or by another on ((his))
26 the applicant's behalf, and shall be reduced to writing upon a standard
27 form((s)) prescribed by the department, and a written acknowledgment of
28 receipt of the application by the department shall be given to each
29 applicant at the time of making application. The application form
30 shall be streamlined so that applicants for various types of public
31 assistance can be identified and cross-referred to programs for which
32 they are eligible, based upon a single, universal assistance
33 application form.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.25.040 (Volunteer work--Child care or
2 other work--Training) and 1997 c 59 s 30, 1997 c 58 s 405, & 1994 c 299
3 s 8 are each repealed.

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