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HOUSE BILL 1554

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Veloria, Darneille, O'Brien, Upthegrove, Miloscia, Cody, Hunt, Chase, Simpson, Haigh, McDermott, Flannigan, Kagi, Sullivan, Kenney, Schual-Berke, McCoy and Santos

Read first time 01/30/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to food stamp eligibility; amending RCW 74.08.025;  
2 and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is important  
5 in these dire economic times to maximize federal food assistance  
6 funding to low-income individuals.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08.025 and 1997 c 58 s 101 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

10 (a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements  
11 of department assistance programs; and

12 (b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash for  
13 the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

14 (c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a  
15 patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public  
16 institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED,  
17 That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing  
18 homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing

1 and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and  
2 health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of  
3 clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical  
4 institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall  
5 allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant  
6 to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for work  
7 as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to prepare  
8 the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent permitted  
9 under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

10 (2) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
11 needy families under this title who has resided in the state of  
12 Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately  
13 preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level in  
14 the state in which the person resided immediately before Washington,  
15 using the eligibility rules and other definitions established under  
16 this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of application in  
17 Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior state is lower than  
18 the level provided to similarly situated applicants in Washington  
19 state. The benefit level under this subsection shall be in effect for  
20 the first twelve months a recipient is on temporary assistance for  
21 needy families in Washington state.

22 (3) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
23 needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and substance  
24 abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring treatment to  
25 become employable shall be required by the department to participate in  
26 a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of benefit receipt.

27 (4) In order to be eligible for temporary assistance for needy  
28 families (~~((and food stamp program benefits))~~), any applicant with a  
29 felony conviction after August 21, 1996, involving drug use or  
30 possession, must: (a) Have been assessed as chemically dependent by a  
31 chemical dependency program approved under chapter 70.96A RCW and be  
32 participating in or have completed a coordinated rehabilitation plan  
33 consisting of chemical dependency treatment and vocational services;  
34 and (b) have not been convicted of a felony involving drug use or  
35 possession in the three years prior to the most current conviction.

36 (5) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall exempt  
37 individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C. 862a(a)(2)  
38 to ensure eligibility for federal food assistance.

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