

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1980

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 24, 2003
Yeas 91 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2003
Yeas 46 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1980** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1980

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representative Boldt

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to work activity requirements under the temporary
2 assistance for needy families program; and amending RCW 74.08A.260,
3 74.08A.275, and 74.08A.285.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 1997 c 58 s 313 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 ~~((Recipients who have not obtained paid, unsubsidized employment by
8 the end of the job search component authorized in section 312 of this
9 act shall be referred to a work activity.))~~

10 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed ~~((immediately upon completion
11 of the job search component))~~ after determination of program
12 eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be
13 based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including
14 but not limited to education, ~~((employment strengths, and employment
15 history))~~ availability of child care, history of family violence,
16 history of substance abuse, and other factors that affect the ability
17 to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed by the department
18 or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform,
19 consistent, transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies

1 and organizations serving the recipient. Based on the assessment, an
2 individual responsibility plan shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth
3 an employment goal and a plan for moving the recipient immediately into
4 employment; (b) contains the obligation of the recipient to become and
5 remain employed; (c) moves the recipient into whatever employment the
6 recipient is capable of handling as quickly as possible; and (d)
7 describes the services available to the recipient to enable the
8 recipient to obtain and keep employment.

9 (2) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities, and
10 do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270, shall
11 engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

12 (3) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
13 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the
14 recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it
15 appropriate, be terminated.

16 (4) The department may waive the penalties required under
17 subsection (3) of this section, subject to a finding that the recipient
18 refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW 74.08A.270.

19 (5) In implementing this section, the department shall assign the
20 highest priority to the most employable clients, including adults in
21 two-parent families and parents in single-parent families that include
22 older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in work
23 activities.

24 (6) In consultation with the recipient, the department or
25 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
26 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.275 and 1999 c 340 s 1 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 Each recipient approved to receive temporary assistance for needy
30 families shall be subject to an employability screening under RCW
31 74.08A.260 after determination of program eligibility and before
32 referral to job search. If the employability screening determines the
33 recipient is not employable, or meets the criteria specified in RCW
34 74.08A.270 for a good cause exemption to work requirements, the
35 department shall defer the job search requirement under RCW 74.08A.285
36 (~~and refer the recipient immediately to the assessment procedure~~
37 ~~required under RCW 74.08A.260~~)).

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.285 and 1998 c 89 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The WorkFirst program operated by the department to meet the
4 federal work requirements specified in P.L. 104-193 shall contain a job
5 search component. The component shall consist of instruction on how to
6 secure a job and assisted job search activities to locate and retain
7 employment. Nonexempt recipients of temporary assistance for needy
8 families shall participate in an initial job search for no more than
9 twelve consecutive weeks. Each recipient shall receive a work skills
10 assessment upon referral to the job search program. The work skills
11 assessment shall include but not be limited to education, employment
12 history, employment strengths, and job skills. The recipient's ability
13 to obtain employment will be reviewed (~~within the first four weeks of~~
14 ~~job search and~~) periodically thereafter and, if it is clear at any
15 time that further participation in a job search will not be productive,
16 the department shall assess the recipient pursuant to RCW 74.08A.260.
17 The department shall refer recipients unable to find employment through
18 the initial job search period to work activities that will develop
19 their skills or knowledge to make them more employable, including
20 additional job search and job readiness assistance.

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