

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1980**

Chapter 383, Laws of 2003

58th Legislature  
2003 Regular Session

WORKFIRST--SKILLS ASSESSMENT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/03

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

FRANK CHOPP

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

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

BRAD OWEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 20, 2003.

GARY LOCKE

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 20, 2003 - 2:56 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1980

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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.

Passed by the House April 24, 2003.

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2003.

Approved by the Governor May 20, 2003.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 20, 2003.