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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6628**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley, Regala, Thibaudeau, Keiser, Kline, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to preserving the WorkFirst child safety net  
2 program; and amending RCW 74.08A.260.

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

4       **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2003 c 383 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6       (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of program  
7 eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be  
8 based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including  
9 but not limited to education, availability of child care, history of  
10 family violence, history of substance abuse, and other factors that  
11 affect the ability to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed  
12 by the department or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be  
13 based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format that will be  
14 accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the recipient.  
15 Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan shall be  
16 prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan for moving  
17 the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the obligation  
18 of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves the recipient

1 into whatever employment the recipient is capable of handling as  
2 quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services available to the  
3 recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment.

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

7 (3) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities  
8 required by the department, the family's grant: (a) Shall be reduced  
9 by the recipient's share(~~(7)~~); and (b) may, if the department  
10 determines it appropriate, be terminated.

11 (4) The department shall exempt a recipient's family from  
12 application of subsection (3)(b) of this section by providing child  
13 safety net payments to maintain housing, basic utilities, and other  
14 verified needs of children in a recipient's family if the recipient or  
15 another adult in the recipient's family is in sanction status.

16 (a) The child safety net payment shall not be less than sixty  
17 percent of the assistance unit's regular monthly grant.

18 (b) The household shall be assigned a protective payee to pay the  
19 family's verified rent and utility costs. Once the basic needs of the  
20 household are met, the assigned protective payee shall hold the funds  
21 in an account to meet the future verified needs of the children rather  
22 than giving any remaining funds to the client.

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

26 ~~((+5))~~ (6) In implementing this section, the department shall  
27 assign the highest priority to the most employable clients, including  
28 adults in two-parent families and parents in single-parent families  
29 that include older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in  
30 work activities.

31 ~~((+6))~~ (7) In consultation with the recipient, the department or  
32 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is  
33 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

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