

**2SSB 6016 - H AMD 664**

By Representative Kagi

ADOPTED 04/11/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.270 and 2002 c 89 s 1 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst  
6 program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a  
7 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under  
8 the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care  
9 for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent  
10 child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue  
11 participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not  
12 available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the  
13 recipient is a parent with a child under the age of one year(~~(, except~~  
14 ~~that at the time a child reaches the age of three months, the recipient~~  
15 ~~is required to participate in one of the following for up to twenty~~  
16 ~~hours per week:~~

17 ~~(i) Instruction or training which has the purpose of improving~~  
18 ~~parenting skills or child well-being;~~

19 ~~(ii) Preemployment or job readiness training;~~

20 ~~(iii) Course study leading to a high school diploma or GED; or~~

21 ~~(iv) Volunteering in a child care facility licensed under chapter~~  
22 ~~74.15 RCW so long as the child care facility agrees to accept the~~  
23 ~~recipient as a volunteer and the child without compensation while the~~  
24 ~~parent is volunteering at the facility. The volunteer recipient and~~  
25 ~~his or her child shall not be counted for the purposes of determining~~  
26 ~~licensed capacity or the staff to child ratio of the facility)).~~

27 (2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst  
28 participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section may be required  
29 to participate in one or more of the following, up to a maximum total

1 of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or training is  
2 indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or other assessment:

3 (a) Mental health treatment;

4 (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;

5 (c) Domestic violence services; or

6 (d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if available.

7 (3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good  
8 cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and  
9 access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and  
10 promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation  
11 programs and services; and (b) provide information on the availability  
12 of home visitation services to temporary assistance for needy families  
13 caseworkers, who shall inform clients of the availability of the  
14 services. If desired by the client, the caseworker shall facilitate  
15 appropriate referrals to providers of home visitation services.

16 (4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from  
17 participating ((fully)) in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.  
18 ((A recipient who chooses to participate fully in the WorkFirst program  
19 shall be considered to be fulfilling the requirements of this section.

20 ~~(3) For any recipient who claims a good cause reason for failure to~~  
21 ~~participate in the WorkFirst program based on the fact that the~~  
22 ~~recipient has a child under the age of one year, the department shall,~~  
23 ~~within existing resources, conduct an assessment of the recipient~~  
24 ~~within ninety days and before a job search component is initiated in~~  
25 ~~order to determine if the recipient has any specific service needs or~~  
26 ~~employment barriers. The assessment may include identifying the need~~  
27 ~~for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or domestic~~  
28 ~~violence services, and shall be used in developing the recipient's~~  
29 ~~individual responsibility plan.~~

30 ~~(4) A parent may only receive the exemption under subsection (1)(b)~~  
31 ~~of this section one time, for one child.))~~

32 (5) A parent is eligible for a good cause exemption under  
33 subsection (1)(b) of this section for a maximum total of twelve months  
34 over the parent's lifetime."

EFFECT: Clarifies that home visitation programs and services are

included in the types of services and programs that TANF caseworkers will help parents identify and access.

Directs DSHS to provide information regarding the availability of home visitation programs to TANF caseworkers who will inform TANF clients with children under 12 months of the availability of such services. If desired by the parent, TANF caseworkers will facilitate appropriate referrals to home visitation service providers.

Removes the express directive to DSHS to collaborate with home visitation service providers for prioritizing TANF clients with children under 12 months.

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