

SSB 5286 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services

NOT CONSIDERED 04/13/2009

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.270 and 2007 c 289 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read 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.

14 (2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst  
15 participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall not be  
16 required to participate in any activities during the first ninety days  
17 following the birth of the child. Thereafter, the parent may be  
18 required to participate in one or more of the following, up to a  
19 maximum total of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or  
20 training is indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or other  
21 assessment:

- 22 (a) Mental health treatment;  
23 (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;  
24 (c) Domestic violence services; or  
25 (d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if available.

26 (3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good  
27 cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and  
28 access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and  
29 promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation  
30 programs and services; and (b) provide information on the availability

1 of home visitation services to temporary assistance for needy families  
2 caseworkers, who shall inform clients of the availability of the  
3 services. If desired by the client, the caseworker shall facilitate  
4 appropriate referrals to providers of home visitation services.

5 (4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from  
6 participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

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

10 (6) The grant to an assistance unit of an eligible parent claiming  
11 a good cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall  
12 not be reduced due to sanction for failure to participate in the  
13 activities described under subsection (2) of this section. The  
14 department may, however, assign a protective payee when a parent in  
15 need of mental health or substance abuse treatment refuses to engage in  
16 treatment, and shall continue its efforts to engage parents in  
17 appropriate supportive services and treatment programs."

EFFECT: Strikes the underlying bill. Provides for a 90-day grace period following the birth of a child during which a parent claiming a good cause exemption from participation in WorkFirst activities will not be required to participate in any alternative activities. Prohibits the DSHS from reducing the grant to the household of a parent claiming the good cause exemption due to sanction for the parent's failure to participate in alternative activities, if required. Permits the DSHS to assign a protective payee for parents refusing to engage in needed mental health or substance abuse treatment and directs the DSHS to continue its efforts to engage parents in appropriate services and treatment.

--- END ---