

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2071

Chapter 85, Laws of 2009

(partial veto)

61st Legislature
2009 Regular Session

PARENT EDUCATION--NEEDY FAMILIES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the House March 6, 2009
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 2, 2009
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved April 13, 2009, 3:55 p.m., with
the exception of Section 1 which is
vetoed.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of
the House of Representatives of
the State of Washington, do hereby
certify that the attached is
certify that the attached is
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2071 as
passed by the House of
Representatives and the Senate on
the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 14, 2009

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2071

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Kagi, Miloscia, Pettigrew, Nelson, Haler, Priest, Goodman, Conway, Ormsby, Santos, and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the earning potential of parents of
2 needy families; amending RCW 74.08A.260; adding a new section to
3 chapter 74.08A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 ****NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that nearly half of***
6 ***all recipients in the state's temporary assistance for needy families***
7 ***program return to the program more than once, seeking financial***
8 ***assistance. The legislature also finds that the inability of those***
9 ***recipients to attain a living wage job and to exit the program***
10 ***permanently remains a concern. The legislature finds that ample***
11 ***evidence demonstrates the connection between educational attainment and***
12 ***increased earnings over time. The legislature also finds that policies***
13 ***to encourage more recipients in the temporary assistance for needy***
14 ***families program to pursue the educational and training opportunities***
15 ***available to them can move more recipients into living wage jobs so***
16 ***they can exit public financial assistance programs permanently.***
17 ***Therefore, the legislature intends to direct the WorkFirst program to***
18 ***develop appropriate strategies to increase participation in educational***

1 **and training programs available to recipients in order to promote**
2 **higher rates of postprogram employment in living wage jobs and to**
3 **reduce the rate of reentry into the program.**

**Sec. 1 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.*

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2006 c 107 s 3 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
17 ~~((moving the recipient immediately into))~~ maximizing the recipient's
18 success at meeting the employment goal; (b) considers WorkFirst
19 educational and training programs from which the recipient could
20 benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the recipient to ~~((become and~~
21 ~~remain employed))~~ participate in the program by complying with the
22 plan; ~~((+e))~~ (d) moves the recipient into ~~((whatever employment the~~
23 ~~recipient is capable of handling))~~ full-time WorkFirst activities as
24 quickly as possible; and ~~((+d))~~ (e) describes the services available
25 to the recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the
26 recipient to obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace
27 and increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

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

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

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

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

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

9 (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a
10 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging in
11 financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the
12 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,
13 including information and resources available through the financial
14 literacy public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450. The
15 department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
16 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 The department shall continue to implement WorkFirst program
20 improvements that are designed to achieve progress against outcome
21 measures specified in RCW 74.08A.410. Outcome data regarding job
22 retention and wage progression shall be reported quarterly to
23 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature for
24 families who leave assistance, measured after twelve months, twenty-
25 four months, and thirty-six months. The department shall also report
26 the percentage of families who have returned to temporary assistance
27 for needy families after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-
28 six months. The department shall make every effort to maximize
29 vocational training, as allowed by federal and state requirements.

Passed by the House March 6, 2009.

Passed by the Senate April 2, 2009.

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2009, with the exception of
certain items that were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 14, 2009.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 1,
Substitute House Bill 2071 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to increasing the earning potential of parents of
needy families."

I am vetoing the intent section, Section 1 of the bill, because it is
broader than the substantive language in the bill. The substantive

language of the bill was changed during the legislative process and the language of Section 1 reflects the content of the original bill, rather than the substitute. The intent section could cause unintended consequences and might result in increased liability for the state. Vetoing the intent section does not impede implementation of the bill.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 1 of Substitute House Bill 2071.

With the exception of Section 1, Substitute House Bill 2071 is approved."