

ESHB 1875 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/4/2016

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.250 and 2013 c 39 s 27 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this
6 chapter, "work activity" means:

- 7 (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;
8 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,
9 including employment through the state or federal work-study program
10 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

11 (3) Work experience, including:

- 12 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is
13 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a
14 license or certificate in a high-demand occupation, as determined by
15 the employment security department. No internship or practicum shall
16 exceed twelve months; or

17 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted
18 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;

19 (4) On-the-job training;

20 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;

21 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary
22 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter
23 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is
24 enrolled;

25 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months
26 with respect to any individual. This twelve-month limit may be
27 increased to twenty-four months under the following conditions:

28 (a) For the purposes of this section and RCW 74.08A.341,
29 vocational educational training that exceeds twelve months is limited
30 to vocational educational training for high-demand/high-wage jobs
31 which means (i) information technology, health care, or other
32 professional-technical programs that can be completed in twenty-four

1 months or less; or (ii) certificate/degree completion, not to exceed
2 a baccalaureate degree, in a high-wage/high-demand field on an
3 exception basis. The high-wage/high-demand criteria for this option
4 is based on median income and high-demand occupations within the
5 local labor market as determined by the employment security
6 department;

7 (b) The authorization to exceed the twelve-month limit is
8 contingent on the individual making progress towards successful
9 completion of the program; and

10 (c) The authorization to exceed the twelve-month limit applies
11 only during state fiscal years in which the department projects that
12 the state will comply with all federal requirements for temporary
13 assistance for needy families work participation rates and will not
14 be subject to a penalty;

15 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;

16 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a
17 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school
18 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;

19 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course
20 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided
21 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed
22 secondary school or received such a certificate;

23 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is
24 participating in a community service program;

25 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience
26 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or
27 nongovernmental agency setting;

28 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a
29 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in
30 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for
31 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;

32 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3)
33 and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;

34 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in
35 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially
36 stable; and

37 (16) Parent education services or programs that support
38 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and
39 employment-related competencies.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.341 and 2012 c 217 s 1 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The department of social and health services shall operate the
4 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through
5 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12
6 RCW within the following constraints:

7 (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by
8 the legislature and consistent with policy established by the
9 legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the
10 following additional outcomes:

11 (a) Recipients' economic status is improving through wage
12 progression, job retention, and educational advancement;

13 (b) Recipients' status regarding housing stability, medical and
14 behavioral health, and job readiness is improving;

15 (c) The well-being of children whose caretaker is receiving
16 benefits on their behalf is improving with respect to child welfare
17 and educational achievement.

18 (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows
19 for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget
20 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary
21 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,
22 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

23 (b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial
24 spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this
25 subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative
26 fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight
27 task force no later than July 1st of every odd-numbered year,
28 beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the
29 legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending plan
30 if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to the
31 legislature and the task force for that biennium.

32 (c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the
33 fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive
34 WorkFirst oversight task force beginning September 1, 2012, and on a
35 quarterly basis thereafter. If the department determines, based upon
36 quarterly expenditure reports, that expenditures will exceed funding
37 at the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those
38 actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter
39 are available only to the extent of and consistent with
40 appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the

1 legislature following notification provided in (b) of this
2 subsection.

3 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for
4 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and
5 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative
6 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"
7 does not include expenditures for information technology and
8 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.
9 104-193.

10 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work
11 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services
12 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290.
13 The vocational educational training work activity, as defined in RCW
14 74.08A.250, is subject to the availability of amounts appropriated
15 for this purpose.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.131
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The definition of "work activity" related to the length of
19 vocational educational training a WorkFirst participant may receive
20 as established under section 1 of this act shall be terminated on
21 August 1, 2021, as provided in section 4 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.131
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
25 amended, are each repealed, effective August 1, 2022:

26 Section 1, chapter ..., Laws of 2016 (section 1 of this act)."

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27 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the
28 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.08A.250 and
29 74.08A.341; and adding new sections to chapter 43.131 RCW."

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