

**ESHB 1875** - S AMD 762

By Senator O'Ban

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

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

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

9 (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public  
10 sector;

11 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
12 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
13 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

14 (3) Work experience, including:

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

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

22 (4) On-the-job training;

23 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;

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

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

4 (a) For the purposes of this section and RCW 74.08A.341,  
5 vocational educational training that exceeds twelve months is  
6 limited to vocational educational training for high-demand/high-wage  
7 jobs which means (i) information technology, health care, or other  
8 professional-technical programs that can be completed in twenty-four  
9 months or less; or (ii) certificate/degree completion, not to exceed  
10 a baccalaureate degree, in a high-wage/high-demand field on an  
11 exception basis. The high-wage/high-demand criteria for this option  
12 is based on median income and high-demand occupations within the  
13 local labor market as determined by the employment security  
14 department; and

15 (b) The authorization to exceed the twelve-month limit is  
16 contingent on the individual making progress towards successful  
17 completion of the program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
4 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
5 stable; and

6 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
7 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
8 employment-related competencies.

9

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

12 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
13 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
14 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12  
15 RCW within the following constraints:

16 (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by  
17 the legislature in a manner calculated to meet the federal work  
18 participation rate and be consistent with policy established by the  
19 legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the  
20 following additional outcomes:

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

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

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

28 (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that  
29 allows for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget  
30 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary  
31 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,  
32 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

33 (b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial  
34 spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this

1 subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative  
2 fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight  
3 task force no later than July 1st of every odd-numbered year,  
4 beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the  
5 legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending  
6 plan if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to  
7 the legislature and the task force for that biennium.

8 (c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the  
9 fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive  
10 WorkFirst oversight task force beginning September 1, 2012, and on a  
11 quarterly basis thereafter. If the department determines, based upon  
12 quarterly expenditure reports, that expenditures will exceed funding  
13 at the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those  
14 actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this  
15 chapter are available only to the extent of and consistent with  
16 appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the  
17 legislature following notification provided in (b) of this  
18 subsection.

19 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
20 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
21 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative  
22 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"  
23 does not include expenditures for information technology and  
24 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.  
25 104-193.

26 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work  
27 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services  
28 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW  
29 74.08A.290.

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31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131  
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 The definition of "work activity" related to the length of  
34 vocational educational training a WorkFirst participant may receive

1 as established under section 1 of this act shall be terminated on  
2 August 1, 2021, as provided in section 4 of this act.

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

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

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

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10 EFFECT: Clarifies that DSHS is to consider the federal work  
11 participation rates for the WorkFirst program and that DSHS is to  
12 operate WorkFirst within amounts appropriated by the Legislature

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