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SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1875

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Walsh, Kagi, Johnson, Sawyer, Pettigrew, Moscoso, Zeiger, Ormsby, Appleton, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1       AN ACT Relating to the definition of work activity for the  
2 purposes of the WorkFirst program; and amending RCW 74.08A.250 and  
3 74.08A.341.

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

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 sector;

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

13       (3) Work experience, including:

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

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

21       (4) On-the-job training;

- 1 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 2 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary  
3 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter  
4 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is  
5 enrolled;
- 6 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed (~~twelve~~)  
7 twenty-four months with respect to any individual;
- 8 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 9 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
10 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school  
11 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;
- 12 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course  
13 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided  
14 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed  
15 secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 16 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is  
17 participating in a community service program;
- 18 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience  
19 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or  
20 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 21 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a  
22 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in  
23 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for  
24 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;
- 25 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3)  
26 and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;
- 27 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
28 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
29 stable; and
- 30 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
31 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
32 employment-related competencies.

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

35 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
36 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
37 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12  
38 RCW within the following constraints:

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

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

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

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

12 (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows  
13 for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget  
14 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary  
15 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,  
16 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

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

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

37 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
38 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
39 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative  
40 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"

1 does not include expenditures for information technology and  
2 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.  
3 104-193.

4 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work  
5 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services  
6 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290.  
7 The vocational education training work activity, as defined in RCW  
8 74.08A.250, is subject to the availability of amounts appropriated  
9 for this purpose.

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