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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1603

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Entenman, Morgan, Kilduff, Macri, Gregerson, Valdez, Chapman, Wylie, Peterson, Doglio, Tharinger, Bergquist, Robinson, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Lovick, Jenkins, Leavitt, Hudgins, Pettigrew, Slatter, Appleton, Stanford, Davis, Frame, Pollet, Fey, and Tarleton)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to revising economic assistance programs by  
2 updating standards of need, revising outcome measures and data  
3 collected, and reducing barriers to participation; amending RCW  
4 74.08.025, 74.08A.410, 74.08A.411, and 74.08A.250; and creating new  
5 sections.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08.025 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 7 are each  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

10 (a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility  
11 requirements of department assistance programs; and

12 (b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash  
13 for the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

14 (c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a  
15 patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public  
16 institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED,  
17 That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing  
18 homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing  
19 and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and  
20 health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of  
21 clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical

1 institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall  
2 allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant  
3 to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for  
4 work as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to  
5 prepare the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent  
6 permitted under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

7 ~~(2) ((Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
8 needy families under this title who has resided in the state of  
9 Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately  
10 preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level  
11 in the state in which the person resided immediately before  
12 Washington, using the eligibility rules and other definitions  
13 established under this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of  
14 application in Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior  
15 state is lower than the level provided to similarly situated  
16 applicants in Washington state. The benefit level under this  
17 subsection shall be in effect for the first twelve months a recipient  
18 is on temporary assistance for needy families in Washington state.~~

19 ~~(3))~~ Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for  
20 needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and  
21 substance abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring  
22 treatment to become employable shall be required by the department to  
23 participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of  
24 benefit receipt.

25 ~~((4) The department may implement a permanent disqualification  
26 for adults who have been terminated due to WorkFirst noncompliance  
27 sanction three or more times since March 1, 2007. A household that  
28 includes an adult who has been permanently disqualified from  
29 receiving temporary assistance for needy families shall be ineligible  
30 for further temporary assistance for needy families assistance.~~

31 ~~(5))~~ (3) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall  
32 exempt individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C.  
33 862a(a)(1) and (2) to ensure eligibility for temporary assistance for  
34 needy families benefits and federal food assistance.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.410 and 1997 c 58 s 702 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 (1) The WorkFirst program shall develop outcome measures for use  
38 in evaluating the WorkFirst program authorized in chapter 58, Laws of  
39 1997, which may include but are not limited to:

1 (a) Caseload reduction, including data for participants who exit:  
2 (i) Due to increased income; (ii) to employment; (iii) at the  
3 participant's request; or (iv) for other reasons;

4 (b) Recidivism to caseload after two years;

5 (c) Employment;

6 (d) Job retention;

7 ~~((d))~~ (e) Earnings;

8 ~~((e))~~ (f) Wage progression;

9 (g) Reduction in average grant through increased recipient  
10 earnings; ~~(and~~

11 ~~(f))~~ (h) Placement of recipients into private sector,  
12 unsubsidized jobs; and

13 (i) Outcomes for sanctioned and time-limited families.

14 (2) The department shall require that contractors for WorkFirst  
15 services collect outcome measure information and report outcome  
16 measures to the department regularly. The department shall develop  
17 benchmarks that compare outcome measure information from all  
18 contractors to provide a clear indication of the most effective  
19 contractors. Benchmark information shall be published quarterly and  
20 provided to the legislature, the governor, the legislative-executive  
21 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force, and all contractors  
22 for WorkFirst services.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.411 and 2009 c 85 s 3 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 The department shall continue to implement WorkFirst program  
26 improvements that are designed to achieve progress against outcome  
27 measures specified in RCW 74.08A.410. Outcome data regarding job  
28 retention and wage progression shall be reported quarterly to the  
29 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature and to  
30 the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task  
31 force for families who leave assistance for any reason, measured  
32 after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The  
33 department shall also report the percentage of families who have  
34 returned to temporary assistance for needy families after twelve  
35 months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The department  
36 shall make every effort to maximize vocational training, as allowed  
37 by federal and state requirements.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2017 c 156 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

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

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

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

9       (3) Work experience, including:

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

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

17       (4) On-the-job training;

18       (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;

19       (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary  
20 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter  
21 (~~43.215~~) 43.216 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her  
22 child is enrolled;

23       (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months  
24 with respect to any individual except that this twelve-month limit  
25 may be increased to twenty-four months subject to funding  
26 appropriated specifically for this purpose;

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW  
6 74.08.025(~~(3)~~) (2) and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;

7 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
8 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
9 stable; and

10 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
11 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
12 employment-related competencies.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act applies prospectively only and  
14 not retroactively. Prospective application of this act allows  
15 families who have been previously permanently disqualified under  
16 prior policies to receive benefits prospectively only, if otherwise  
17 eligible.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
20 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
21 act is null and void.

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