AN ACT Relating to transitional food assistance; and amending RCW 74.08A.010.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.010 and 2021 c 239 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary assistance for needy families for sixty months after July 27, 1997, shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy families assistance.

(2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the department shall count any month in which an adult family member received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the head of the household.

(3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

(4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims' assistance programs.
programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'
compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

(5)(a) The department shall add to adopted rules related to
temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions, the
following criteria by which the department shall exempt a recipient
and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of
this section:

(i) By reason of hardship, including when:

(A) The recipient's family includes a child or youth who is
without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as
described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act
(Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter VI, part B) as it existed
on January 1, 2020; or

(B) The recipient received temporary assistance for needy
families during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when Washington
state's unemployment rate as published by the Washington employment
security department was equal to or greater than seven percent, and
the recipient is otherwise eligible for temporary assistance for
needy families except that they have exceeded 60 months. The
extension provided for under this subsection (5)(a)(i)(B) is equal to
the number of months that the recipient received temporary assistance
for needy families during a month after March 1, 2020, when the
unemployment rate was equal to or greater than seven percent, and is
applied sequentially to any other hardship extensions that may apply
under this subsection (5) or in rule; or

(ii) If the family includes an individual who meets the family
violence options of section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal
social security act as amended by P.L. 104-193.

(b) Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient
will be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of
this section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own
behalf, and parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child
similarly, unless required otherwise under federal law.

(6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her
family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section
until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance
under this chapter.

(7) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for
a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive
temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in

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If a member of a household has been sanctioned but the household is still receiving benefits, the remaining eligible household members may receive transitional food assistance. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's basic food certification until the end of the transition period.