

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1151**

Chapter 9, Laws of 2021

67th Legislature  
2021 Regular Session

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 2021—Except for section 1, which becomes effective March 31, 2021; and section 2, which becomes effective July 1, 2022.

Passed by the House February 25, 2021  
Yeas 82 Nays 16

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 24, 2021  
Yeas 34 Nays 13

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 31, 2021 2:10 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1151** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 31, 2021

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1151**

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Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Housing, Human Services & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Shewmake, Peterson, Bronoske, Entenman, Stonier, Bateman, Chopp, Frame, Hackney, Callan, Pollet, Gregerson, Senn, and J. Johnson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/21.

1       AN ACT Relating to bolstering economic recovery by providing  
2 public assistance to households in need; amending RCW 74.04.660 and  
3 74.04.770; adding a new section to chapter 74.04 RCW; creating a new  
4 section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6       **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.04.660 and 2008 c 181 s 301 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8       The department shall establish a consolidated emergency  
9 assistance program for families with children. Assistance may be  
10 provided in accordance with this section.

11       (1) Benefits provided under this program shall be limited to one  
12 period of time, as determined by the department, within any  
13 consecutive twelve-month period.

14       (2) Benefits under this program shall be provided to alleviate  
15 emergent conditions resulting from insufficient income and resources  
16 to provide for: Food, shelter, clothing, medical care, or other  
17 necessary items, as defined by the department. Benefits may also be  
18 provided for family reconciliation services, family preservation  
19 services, home-based services, short-term substitute care in a  
20 licensed agency as defined in RCW 74.15.020, crisis nurseries,  
21 therapeutic child care, or other necessary services as defined by the

1 department. Benefits shall be provided only in an amount sufficient  
2 to cover the cost of the specific need, subject to the limitations  
3 established in this section.

4 (3) (a) The department shall, by rule, establish assistance  
5 standards and eligibility criteria for this program in accordance  
6 with this section.

7 (b) Eligibility for benefits or services under this section does  
8 not automatically entitle a recipient to medical assistance.

9 (4) The department shall seek federal emergency assistance funds  
10 to supplement the state funds appropriated for the operation of this  
11 program as long as other departmental programs are not adversely  
12 affected by the receipt of federal funds.

13 (5) If state funds appropriated for the consolidated emergency  
14 assistance program are exhausted, the department may discontinue the  
15 program.

16 (6) During a state of emergency and pursuant to an order from the  
17 governor under this subsection, benefits under this program may be  
18 extended to individuals and families without children and may be  
19 provided for more than one period of time within any consecutive 12-  
20 month period, as established in an order from the governor.  
21 Adjustments to the program under this subsection remain in effect  
22 until either the state of emergency ceases, the order expires, or the  
23 governor issues an order terminating these adjustments, whichever  
24 occurs first.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 74.04  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) To assist with family-related expenses, households with  
28 children receiving food benefits under this title, who are not  
29 simultaneously receiving temporary assistance for needy families, are  
30 eligible to receive a one-time state-funded cash benefit in the final  
31 month of eligibility when the household's food benefits terminate due  
32 to exceeding the gross income limit or when the household requests  
33 voluntary closure.

34 (2) For households receiving a cash benefit under subsection (1)  
35 of this section, the department shall provide transitional food  
36 assistance for a period of five months when eligibility for food  
37 benefits ceases due to exceeding the gross income limit or when the  
38 household requests voluntary closure.

1 (3) If necessary, the department shall extend the household's  
2 food benefit certification until the end of the transition period.

3 (4) The amount of the cash benefit issued by the department under  
4 subsection (1) of this section must be set in accordance with  
5 available funds appropriated for this purpose.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.04.770 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 s 26 are each  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish consolidated standards of need  
9 each fiscal year which may vary by geographical areas, program, and  
10 family size, for temporary assistance for needy families, refugee  
11 assistance, supplemental security income, and benefits under RCW  
12 74.62.030.

13 (2)(a) Standards of need for temporary assistance for needy  
14 families, refugee assistance, and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 shall  
15 be based on studies of actual living costs and generally recognized  
16 inflation indices and shall include reasonable allowances for basic  
17 household needs including shelter, fuel, food, transportation,  
18 clothing, household maintenance and operations, personal maintenance,  
19 ~~((and))~~ necessary incidentals((-)), cell phone and internet, and out-  
20 of-pocket costs for child care and health care.

21 (b) By July 1, 2022, to ensure the standards of need reflect the  
22 current goods and services households need, the department must use  
23 an existing, broadly used national standard that meets the  
24 requirements of (a) of this subsection as the base for annual  
25 updating in subsection (1) of this section.

26 (c) The standard of need may take into account the economies of  
27 joint living arrangements, but unless explicitly required by federal  
28 statute, there shall not be proration of any portion of assistance  
29 grants unless the amount of the grant standard is equal to the  
30 standard of need.

31 The department is authorized to establish rateable reductions and  
32 grant maximums consistent with federal law.

33 (3) Payment level will be equal to need or a lesser amount if  
34 rateable reductions or grant maximums are imposed. In no case shall a  
35 recipient of supplemental security income receive a state supplement  
36 less than the minimum required by federal law.

37 ~~((The department may establish a separate standard for shelter~~  
38 ~~provided at no cost.))~~

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Section 1 of this act is necessary for the  
2 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or  
3 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,  
4 and takes effect immediately.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    If specific funding for the purposes of  
6 section 2 of this act, referencing section 2 of this act by bill or  
7 chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2021, in the omnibus  
8 appropriations act, section 2 of this act is null and void.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,  
10 2022.

Passed by the House February 25, 2021.  
Passed by the Senate March 24, 2021.  
Approved by the Governor March 31, 2021.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2021.

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