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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6135**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators C. Wilson, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Randall, and Saldaña)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to programs for eligible recipients of temporary  
2 assistance for needy families; adding a new section to chapter 74.04  
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that during the  
6 great recession many of Washington's most economically vulnerable  
7 families were the most negatively impacted, not only by the loss of  
8 jobs but also by the cuts to social safety net programs and supports.  
9 For example, the post temporary assistance for needy families support  
10 services offer families who exit temporary assistance for needy  
11 families and are employed at least 20 hours per week assistance with  
12 items needed to help the parents stay employed and bridge some of the  
13 negative impacts that occur when temporary assistance for needy  
14 families benefits end. Services include expenses like car repairs,  
15 gas, work clothing, and tools for up to 12 months after the temporary  
16 assistance for needy families grant ended.

17 (2) The legislature further finds that this benefit was cut  
18 during the great recession and has since been restored to three  
19 months. Given the meaningful impact this program has on families, the  
20 legislature finds and resolves to reinstate support services to its  
21 original 12 months of support.

1 (3) Additionally, the transitional work bonus program offered a  
2 one-time bonus option for employed temporary assistance for needy  
3 families households with low cash grants who voluntarily exited  
4 temporary assistance for needy families. The legislature resolves to  
5 reinstate the transitional work expense bonus program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Beginning March 1, 2026, and subject to the availability of  
9 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall  
10 provide a transitional work expense bonus for clients voluntarily  
11 exiting the temporary assistance for needy families program pursuant  
12 to this chapter.

13 (2) The amount of the transitional work expense bonus shall be  
14 \$2,000. Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
15 this amount may be adjusted every two years according to an  
16 inflationary increase. The inflationary increase must be calculated  
17 by applying generally recognized inflation indices consistent with  
18 those considered under RCW 74.04.770(2)(a).

19 (3) To be eligible for the transitional work expense bonus, a  
20 household must:

21 (a) Receive a temporary assistance for needy families or state  
22 family assistance grant of \$200 or less per month;

23 (b) Voluntarily stop receiving their temporary assistance for  
24 needy families or state family assistance grant;

25 (c) Have never received a transitional work expense bonus before;  
26 and

27 (d) Include an adult recipient of temporary assistance for needy  
28 families.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** By September 1, 2024, the department of  
30 social and health services shall adopt rules as necessary to increase  
31 post temporary assistance for needy families support services from  
32 three months to 12 months for former recipients working 20 hours or  
33 more a week, with access to any support service needed to assist with  
34 job retention. The rules must require that support services are to be  
35 provided through electronic benefit transfer cards when feasible.

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