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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2714**

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**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Couture, Ormsby, Macri, and Gregerson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/26.

1            AN ACT Relating to caseload forecasting for food assistance  
2 programs; and reenacting and amending RCW 43.88C.010.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2023 c 420 s 4, 2023 c 345 s 1, and  
5 2023 c 244 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6            (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council  
7 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four  
8 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of  
9 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of  
10 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from  
11 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other  
12 officers as the members deem necessary.

13            (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to  
14 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this  
15 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

16            (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of  
17 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the  
18 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each  
19 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year  
20 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by  
21 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The

1 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes  
2 of this section.

3 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation  
4 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the  
5 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If  
6 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in  
7 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without  
8 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved  
9 by the council.

10 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
11 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the  
12 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on  
13 assumptions specified by the member.

14 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without  
15 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
16 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the  
17 council or on official business authorized by the council.  
18 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel  
19 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

21 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement  
22 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,  
23 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional  
24 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common  
25 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and  
26 adoption support;

27 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
28 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an  
29 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

30 (c) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
31 college grant program under RCW 28B.92.200 and 28B.92.205 and are  
32 expected to attend an institution of higher education as defined in  
33 RCW 28B.92.030;

34 (d) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW  
35 43.216.505, to participate in, and the number of children actually  
36 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program; and

37 (e) Beginning with the first official forecast after July 23,  
38 2023, the number of people eligible for the working families' tax  
39 credit under RCW 82.08.0206. The total number of people eligible for  
40 the working families' tax credit should include:

- 1 (i) The number of eligible people with no qualifying children;  
2 (ii) The number of eligible people with one qualifying child;  
3 (iii) The number of eligible people with two qualifying children;  
4 and  
5 (iv) The number of eligible people with three or more qualifying  
6 children.

7 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary  
8 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care  
9 programs as a courtesy.

10 (9) By January 1, 2023, the caseload forecast council shall  
11 present the number of individuals who are assessed as eligible for  
12 and have requested a service through the individual and family  
13 services waiver and the basic plus waiver administered by the  
14 developmental disabilities administration as a courtesy. The caseload  
15 forecast council shall be presented with the service request list as  
16 defined in RCW 71A.10.020 to aid in development of this information.

17 (10) Beginning with the official forecast submitted in November  
18 2022 and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
19 specific purpose, the caseload forecast council shall forecast the  
20 number of individuals who are assessed as eligible for and have  
21 requested supported living services, a service through the core  
22 waiver, an individual and family services waiver, and the basic plus  
23 waiver administered by the developmental disabilities administration  
24 as a courtesy. The caseload forecast council shall be presented with  
25 the service request list as defined in RCW 71A.10.020 to aid in  
26 development of this information.

27 (11) As a courtesy, beginning with the official forecast  
28 submitted in November 2022, the caseload forecast council shall  
29 forecast the number of individuals who are expected to reside in  
30 state-operated living alternatives administered by the developmental  
31 disabilities administration.

32 (12) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth  
33 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW  
34 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster  
35 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

36 (13) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of  
37 youth expected to receive behavioral rehabilitation services while  
38 involved in the foster care system and the number of screened in  
39 reports of child abuse or neglect.

1 (14) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of  
2 individuals who are functionally and financially eligible for  
3 medicaid waiver services administered by the developmental  
4 disabilities administration who also meet the criteria outlined in  
5 RCW 71A.12.370 and are expected to utilize a medicaid waiver service.

6 (15) The caseload forecast council shall forecast eligible  
7 children participating in the transition to kindergarten program  
8 under RCW 28A.300.072.

9 (16) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
10 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

11 (17) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, and beginning with the  
12 November 2021 forecast, the caseload forecast council shall produce  
13 an unofficial forecast of the long-term caseload for juvenile  
14 rehabilitation as a courtesy.

15 (18) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the state food  
16 assistance program and the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

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