
SENATE BILL 5660

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Hargrove, and Stevens

Read first time 02/03/11. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to public assistance; amending RCW 74.12.030,
2 74.08.580, and 43.88C.010; adding new sections to chapter 74.08A RCW;
3 repealing RCW 74.08A.340; and providing effective dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The full amount of the temporary assistance for needy families
8 block grant, plus qualifying state expenditures shall be appropriated
9 to the department each year in the omnibus appropriations act subject
10 to the following restrictions:

11 (a) The amount appropriated to the department for cash assistance
12 shall not be exceeded and shall be spent only for cash assistance;

13 (b) The amount appropriated for WorkFirst activities shall not be
14 exceeded and may be transferred within the WorkFirst activities,
15 including to other state agencies that provide some of those
16 activities;

17 (c) No more than fifteen percent of the total amount in subsections
18 (1) and (2) of this section may be spent for administrative purposes.

1 For purposes of this section, "administrative purposes" does not
2 include expenditures for information technology and computerization
3 needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L. 104-193.

4 (2) The full amount of the child care development fund shall be
5 appropriated to the department of early learning each year in the
6 omnibus appropriations act to carry out the provisions of the working
7 connections child care program, child care quality programs, and child
8 care licensing functions. The department of early learning shall
9 transfer to the department sufficient funds to perform working
10 connections child care eligibility determinations, service
11 authorizations, and child care provider payments.

12 (3) The department and the department of early learning shall
13 operate the programs under subsections (1) and (2) of this section
14 within appropriated levels. Each department shall monitor expenditures
15 against appropriation levels provided in the omnibus appropriations act
16 and shall quarterly report its findings to the appropriate committees
17 of the legislature.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 The department shall implement strategies that accomplish the
21 outcome measures identified in RCW 74.08A.410 that are within the
22 funding constraints in section 1 of this act. Specifically the
23 department shall implement strategies that will cause the number of
24 cases in the program authorized in RCW 74.08A.210 through 74.08A.330
25 and 43.330.145 and chapter 74.12 RCW to decrease by at least five
26 percent each biennium starting with the 2011-13 biennium.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) The legislature believes that the foundation of a successful
30 temporary assistance for needy families program is an individualized
31 assessment of the strengths and needs of each family, and the matching
32 of appropriate resources to serve them. The legislature finds that it
33 is critical to identify participants early in the process who have
34 serious barriers to employment, such as chemical dependency or learning
35 disabilities, and connect them with appropriately tailored services.
36 It is important that the services to which recipients are matched meet

1 the goals of assisting needy families so that children can be cared for
2 in their own homes and an individualized plan is developed for the
3 recipients to assist them in attaining the skills and training
4 necessary for them to achieve self-sufficiency.

5 (2) The department shall conduct an initial comprehensive family
6 assessment at program entry. The assessment shall be designed to be
7 used by other agencies which may provide services to the recipient and
8 his or her family. One of the major objectives of the assessment shall
9 be to identify families for whom barrier resolution is appropriate.
10 After the assessment is complete, the department shall engage the
11 family in a subsequent evaluation designed to identify the appropriate
12 work preparation activity and service level for the recipient.

13 (3) The department shall also explore the use of a predictive
14 modeling tool to be used to identify risk factors affecting a
15 recipient's employability. This tool should be designed to assist the
16 department in identifying families who are at high risk of long stays
17 on temporary assistance for needy families and those who are likely to
18 exit relatively quickly from the program. The information produced by
19 this tool should be combined with the information produced by the
20 assessment in subsection (2) of this section to place recipients in the
21 most appropriate services and activities and move them more quickly to
22 self-sufficiency.

23 (4) The department shall accomplish the activities in subsections
24 (2) and (3) of this section within current funding.

25 (5) The department shall continuously monitor the progress of each
26 recipient in completing his or her plan. The department shall also
27 monitor the outcomes produced by the skills training or services a
28 recipient receives to determine whether the skills training and
29 services purchased by the department to serve recipients is achieving
30 the outcomes set by the department.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.12.030 and 1997 c 59 s 17 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of RCW
34 74.08.025, as now or hereafter amended, an applicant for temporary
35 assistance for needy families must be a needy child who is a resident
36 of the state of Washington.

1 (2) The following persons are not eligible to receive temporary
2 assistance for needy families:

3 (a) Individuals in the United States on time-limited visas to work,
4 study, or travel;

5 (b) Individuals who entered as temporary residents and overstayed
6 their visas, or are engaged in activities forbidden by their visas, or
7 who entered the United States without a visa; and

8 (c) Individuals given temporary administrative statuses until they
9 can formalize permanent status, individuals paroled for less than one
10 year, or individuals under deportation procedures.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.08.580 and 2002 c 252 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) Any person receiving public assistance is prohibited from using
14 electronic benefit cards or cash obtained with electronic benefit
15 cards:

16 (a) For the purpose of participating in any of the activities
17 authorized under chapter 9.46 RCW;

18 (b) For the purpose of parimutuel wagering authorized under chapter
19 67.16 RCW; (~~or~~)

20 (c) To purchase lottery tickets or shares authorized under chapter
21 67.70 RCW;

22 (d) For the purpose of participating in or purchasing any
23 activities located in a tattoo, body piercing, or body art shop
24 licensed under chapter 18.300 RCW;

25 (e) To purchase cigarettes as defined in RCW 82.24.010 or tobacco
26 products as defined in RCW 82.26.010;

27 (f) To purchase any items regulated under Title 66 RCW;

28 (g) To purchase any items regulated under chapter 9.41 RCW; or

29 (h) For the purpose of participating in or purchasing any
30 activities located in an adult entertainment venue with performances
31 that contain erotic material where minors under the age of eighteen are
32 prohibited under RCW 9.68A.150.

33 (2)(a) The department shall notify, in writing, all recipients of
34 electronic benefit cards that any violation of subsection (1) of this
35 section could result in legal proceedings and forfeiture of all cash
36 public assistance.

1 (b) Whenever the department receives notice that a person has
2 violated subsection (1) of this section, the department shall notify
3 the person in writing that the violation could result in legal
4 proceedings and forfeiture of all cash public assistance.

5 (c) The department shall assign a protective payee to the person
6 receiving public assistance who violates subsection (1) of this
7 section.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2000 c 90 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

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

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

20 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the
21 council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
22 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
23 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
24 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
25 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
26 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes of
27 this section.

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

35 (5) A council member who does not cast an affirmative vote for
36 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the

1 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on assumptions
2 specified by the member.

3 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
4 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in
5 accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council
6 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative
7 members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in
8 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

9 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means the number of
10 persons expected to meet entitlement requirements and require the
11 services of public assistance programs, including the temporary
12 assistance for needy families program, state correctional institutions,
13 state correctional noninstitutional supervision, state institutions for
14 juvenile offenders, the common school system, long-term care, medical
15 assistance, foster care, and adoption support.

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

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 1 of this act is necessary for the
19 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
20 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
21 and takes effect July 1, 2011.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,
23 2013.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RCW 74.08A.340 (Funding restrictions) and
25 2009 c 564 s 953, 2008 c 329 s 922, 2007 c 522 s 957, 2006 c 265 s 209,
26 & 1997 c 58 s 321 are each repealed.

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