
SENATE BILL 5568

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Stratton, Talmadge, L. Smith, Pelz, Bailey, Gaspard, Vognild, Williams, Skratek, Murray, Newhouse, McMullen, Matson, Bauer, West, L. Kreidler, A. Smith, Wojahn, Moore, Rinehart and Snyder.

Read first time February 7, 1991. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to hunger and nutrition; adding new sections to
2 chapter 74.04 RCW; adding new sections to Title 28A RCW; creating new
3 sections; making appropriations; providing an effective date; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Hunger and malnutrition threaten the future
7 of a whole generation of children in Washington. Children who are
8 hungry or malnourished are unable to function optimally in the
9 classroom and are thus at risk of lower achievement in school. The
10 resultant diminished future capacity of and opportunities for these
11 children will affect this state's economic and social future. Thus, the
12 legislature finds that the state has an interest in helping families
13 provide nutritious meals to children.

14 The legislature also finds that the state has an interest in
15 helping hungry and malnourished adults obtain necessary nourishment.

1 Adequate nourishment is necessary for physical health, and physical
2 health is the foundation of self-sufficiency. Adequate nourishment is
3 especially critical in the case of pregnant and lactating women, both
4 to ensure that all mothers and babies are as healthy as possible and to
5 minimize the costs associated with the care of low-birthweight babies.

6 PART I

7 WIC

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 101.** The legislature finds that the special
9 supplemental food program for women, infants, and children has proven
10 effective in preventing infant mortality, reducing the number of
11 undernourished children with retarded growth, reducing the incidence of
12 delayed cognitive development and decreasing the number of
13 low-birthweight babies. However, not all of the eligible mothers and
14 children in this state are currently served by the program. Therefore,
15 the legislature intends to increase the number of eligible women and
16 children served by the program.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 102.** The sum of twelve million four hundred
18 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
19 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
20 fund to the department of health for the purpose of increasing the
21 number of eligible women, infants, and children served by the special
22 supplemental food program for women, infants, and children.

23 PART II

24 EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 201.** The legislature finds that the
2 emergency food assistance program has been successful in defraying the
3 costs of operating food banks and food distribution programs in the
4 state. However, current resources are inadequate to meet the needs of
5 the hungry and malnourished people in this state. Additional funding
6 for the emergency food assistance program is needed to provide for the
7 purchase, transportation, and storage of food and to support the
8 operation of food banks, food distribution programs, and tribal voucher
9 programs.

10 Additionally, many of the people who receive food from food banks
11 have special nutritional needs that are not currently being met. These
12 include infants and children with disabilities, pregnant and lactating
13 women, adults with chronic diseases, people with acquired immune
14 deficiency syndrome, people with lactose intolerance, people who have
15 difficulty chewing, alcoholics, intravenous drug users, and people with
16 cultural food preferences. The legislature finds that additional funds
17 to provide special nutritional foods are necessary and that training
18 regarding these special nutritional needs is needed for food bank staff
19 and volunteers.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 202.** The sum of two million three hundred
21 fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
22 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
23 fund to the department of community development for the purpose of
24 supporting the operation of food banks, food distribution programs, and
25 tribal voucher programs and providing for the purchase, transportation,
26 and storage of food under the emergency food assistance program.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 203.** The sum of one million four hundred
28 fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is

1 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
2 fund to the department of community development for the purpose of
3 purchasing food for persons with special nutritional needs and training
4 food bank staff and volunteers regarding persons with special
5 nutritional needs as specified in section 201 of this act.

6 PART III

7 FOOD STAMPS

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** The legislature finds that delays in
9 receiving food stamps often drive hungry families to food banks.
10 Expediting the issuance of food stamps to eligible applicants will ease
11 some of the pressure on the food bank system. The legislature also
12 finds that some of those who currently apply for the expedited issuance
13 of food stamps are not receiving them within the five-day waiting
14 period. Therefore, the department is directed to issue food stamps to
15 eligible applicants within twenty-four hours of application.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The department shall issue expedited food stamps to eligible
19 recipients within twenty-four hours of application. The department
20 shall establish an eligibility process for the expedited issuance of
21 food stamps that conforms to federal requirements and results in the
22 least additional workload increase to department staff.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 303.** A new section is added to chapter 74.04
24 RCW to read as follows:

1 In determining food stamp need and eligibility, the department
2 shall exclude as income the child support exempted by 42 U.S.C. Sec.
3 657 (b) or 602 (a)(8)(A)(vi).

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 304.** The sum of one million five hundred
5 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
6 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
7 fund to the department of social and health services for the purpose of
8 implementing section 301 of this act.

9 PART IV

10 NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** The legislature finds that the school
12 breakfast and lunch programs, the summer feeding program, and the child
13 and adult day care feeding programs authorized by the United States
14 department of agriculture are effective in addressing unmet nutritional
15 needs. However, some communities in the state do not participate in
16 these programs. The result is hunger, malnutrition, and inadequate
17 nutrition education for otherwise eligible persons living in
18 nonparticipating communities.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 402.** A new section is added to Title 28A RCW to
20 read as follows:

21 The superintendent of public instruction shall aggressively solicit
22 eligible schools, child and adult day care centers, and other
23 organizations to participate in the nutrition programs authorized by
24 the United States department of agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS

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2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 501.** Following the 1991 legislative session,
3 the house of representatives human services committee shall conduct an
4 interim study on:

- 5 (1) The need for nutrition programs for at-risk youth;
- 6 (2) The nutritional needs of persons served in out-of-home care
7 settings;
- 8 (3) The nutritional needs of senior citizens; and
- 9 (4) The nutritional needs of persons under the age of sixty who
10 receive services through the long-term care system.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 502.** Parts and headings as used in this act
12 constitute no part of the law.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 503.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 504.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
20 effect July 1, 1991.