
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8405

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators McDonald, Anderson, Johnson, Matson, Craswell, Roach, Cantu, Thorsness, Oke and McCaslin.

Read first time March 26, 1991. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the legislature to initiate the
2 implementation of a state-wide system, for the support of families and
3 children in poverty, which breaks the cycle of poverty by providing to
4 parents practical work skills and experiences, while encouraging the
5 education of their children;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
7 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint task
8 force of the legislative and executive branches of state government be
9 established for the purpose of developing an implementation plan for a
10 system of public assistance consistent with the requirements and
11 objectives of this resolution. The membership of the task force shall
12 consist of:

13 (1) Three members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed
14 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. No more than two of
15 the members may be from the same political party;

1 (2) Three members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President
2 of the Senate. No more than two of the members may be from the same
3 political party; and

4 (3) Two citizens appointed by the President of the Senate and two
5 citizens appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
6 citizen members of the task force shall be recognized experts in public
7 assistance, representatives of the business community, or experienced
8 in self-sufficiency and employability training; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Social and Health
10 Services is respectfully requested to serve as chair of the joint task
11 force. Administrative and staff support of the task force is requested
12 to be provided by the Department of Social and Health Services under
13 the direction of a steering group of legislative staff members
14 designated by the task force. Members of the task force shall be
15 reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060;
16 legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed pursuant to
17 RCW 44.04.120; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by December 1, 1991, the joint task
19 force shall develop and submit to the Governor and the Legislature a
20 written plan for the implementation of a system of public assistance
21 beginning in fiscal year 1993 that:

22 (1) Maximizes, to the greatest extent permitted by federal law,
23 within available fiscal resources, the placement of nonexempt public
24 assistance recipients in a suitable form of employment or active search
25 for work or, as a secondary priority, in a training program that will
26 result in a job placement;

27 (2) Provides support services to recipients to the extent necessary
28 to achieve the self-sufficiency employment objectives of the program.
29 These support services may include day-care services, transportation
30 assistance, and medical benefits;

1 (3) Provides a comprehensive process for an assessment of each
2 public assistance recipient's employability, including work history,
3 education, basic skills, support services requirements, and other
4 factors that influence the recipient's employability;

5 (4) Provides for the classification of recipients according to
6 employability, based on demographic characteristics most likely to
7 contribute to successful employment;

8 (5) Requires recipients to participate in a program of employment,
9 work search, or job training as a condition of receipt of full public
10 assistance benefits. This requirement shall be implemented on a
11 phased-in basis, beginning with those recipients that are classified as
12 most employable. Recipients will be required to accept bona fide
13 employment offers;

14 (6) Identifies the level of employment necessary to decrease the
15 recipient's reliance on state support, provide a stable level of
16 household income, and encourage long-term self-sufficiency. For
17 appropriate recipients who are employed part time, the implementation
18 plan shall require continued work search and job preparation activities
19 designed to secure stable, full-time employment;

20 (7) Requires funds expended for education to be targeted to achieve
21 the level of employment described in (6) above;

22 (8) Conforms with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and
23 performance standards; and

24 (9) Maximizes the state's receipt of available federal matching
25 funds; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in developing the implementation plan,
27 the joint task force shall:

28 (1) Consider requirements for government or community work
29 experience as a condition of benefits under the Aid to Families with
30 Dependent Children program;

1 (2) Consider requiring that parents ensure the regular school
2 attendance of their children as a condition of continued full receipt
3 of Aid to Families with Dependent Children; and

4 (3) Examine the relative value and tradeoffs among varying grant
5 levels and the costs of providing employment, training, work search
6 assistance, and support services. The goal of this examination is to
7 develop a plan that provides the most effective use of appropriated
8 funds to achieve self-sufficiency; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the written implementation plan
10 submitted by the joint task force shall include:

11 (1) All state legislation necessary to implement the plan;

12 (2) The necessary state action plan required for the federal Job
13 Opportunities and Basic Skills program (JOBS);

14 (3) Any necessary applications for the waiver of federal statutory
15 or administrative requirements; and

16 (4) A proposed budget for fiscal year 1993 for the expenditure of
17 funds held in reserve that:

18 (a) Maximizes matching and other federal funds; and

19 (b) Projects the cost of fully implementing mandatory work search
20 and job placement requirements to the maximum extent permitted by
21 federal law, including the projected number of cases in each
22 classification, the itemized cost of a phase-in of each employability
23 classification, the education, training, and support services required
24 by each classification, and the average caseload cost of a recipient in
25 each classification.