

1 **ESSB 6244** - H AMDS TO APP COMM AMD (H4310.3/94) **1203 ADOPTED22594**  
2 By Representative Sommers

3 On page 142, after line 27 of the amendment, insert the  
4 following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 907.** The department of social and  
6 health services shall design and implement a public assistance  
7 reform program which incorporates, but is not limited to, the  
8 following initiatives:

9 (a) Mandatory participation in the job opportunities and  
10 basic skills program for recipients of aid to families with  
11 dependent children who are pregnant or parenting teens or who  
12 have received assistance for 36 of the last 60 months;

13 (b) Ineligibility for public assistance for pregnant or  
14 parenting teens who do not live with another adult or are not  
15 subject to protective payee requirements;

16 (c) Payment of cash instead of food stamps or use of  
17 electronic benefits transfer for participants in the job  
18 opportunities and basic skills program;

19 (d) An annual benefit reduction of ten percent for  
20 individuals who have received public assistance for 48 of the  
21 last 60 months, combined with freezing other benefits to ensure  
22 that reductions are not diluted by increases in other benefits;  
23 and

24 (e) The ability for recipients subject to the benefit  
25 reduction to earn back amounts lost due to length of stay.

26 The department of social and health services shall make any  
27 state plan amendments that may be necessary to implement any of  
28 the initiatives described in this section. The department shall  
29 request the governor to seek congressional action on any federal  
30 legislation that may be necessary to implement any of the  
31 initiatives described in this section. By October 1, 1994, the

1 department shall request the governor to seek federal agency  
2 action on any federal regulation that may require a federal  
3 waiver.

4 By January 1, 1995, the department of social and health  
5 services shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of  
6 the legislature regarding the program design, necessary state  
7 legislation changes, status of waiver requests, a plan for  
8 implementation beginning on July 1, 1995, and the fiscal impact  
9 of the program."

10 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct  
11 internal references accordingly.

12 On page 51, after line 36 of the amendment, insert the  
13 following:

14 (8) The job opportunities and basic skills training program  
15 shall place a high priority on participants gaining work  
16 experience and participants will normally be expected to take any  
17 job offered unless there is good cause to refuse to accept a job.  
18 Good cause shall be found if any of the conditions described in  
19 RCW 74.25.020(3) are met, or if accepting a job would result in a  
20 participant having to discontinue an education or job training  
21 program that is part of the participant's employability plan  
22 prior to completion of such education or job training program.

23 The department of social and health services shall track the  
24 experience of those recipients who accept any job offered as part  
25 of their job opportunities and basic skills program  
26 participation.

27 Hours of unsubsidized employment shall count towards  
28 participation requirements independent of date of hire or  
29 concurrent participation in other components of the job  
30 opportunities and basic skills program. The services specified  
31 in the employability plan will be targeted as follows:

32 (a) Participants under age twenty may be required to

1 complete high school or other basic skills training;

2 (b) Participants who do not have recent work experience  
3 shall be required to participate in paid or unpaid work  
4 experience or activities leading directly to such experience,  
5 including job search, job readiness, and job skills training;

6 (c) Participants who have recent work experience and more  
7 than a high school diploma shall be required to participate in  
8 job search; and

9 (d) Vocational education programs shall be emphasized over  
10 postsecondary education programs."

EFFECT: Directs DSHS to design a public assistance reform program which includes mandatory JOBS participation for teen and long term recipients, a benefit reduction after 48 months of welfare receipt, and ineligibility for teens not living with an adult or subject to protective payee requirements. directs the JOBS program to target service components based on work experience.