
HOUSE BILL 2701

State of Washington

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By Representatives Mastin, Sommers, Forner, Brumsickle, Long, Linville, Casada, Van Luven, B. Thomas, Wineberry, Dyer, Talcott, Cooke, Brough, Roland, Rayburn, Chandler, Kremen, Sheldon, Jones, Karahalios, Springer and Quall

Read first time 01/21/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to community work experience for recipients of aid
2 to families with dependent children; amending RCW 74.25.010 and
3 74.25.020; and adding a new section to chapter 74.25 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.25.010 and 1991 c 126 s 5 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature establishes as state policy the goal of economic
8 self-sufficiency for employable recipients of public assistance,
9 through employment, training, and education. In furtherance of this
10 policy, the legislature intends to comply with the requirements of the
11 federal social security act, as amended, by creating a job
12 opportunities and basic skills training program for applicants and
13 recipients of aid to families with dependent children. The purpose of
14 this program is to provide recipients of aid to families with dependent
15 children the opportunity to obtain a full range of necessary education,
16 training, skills, and supportive services, including child care,
17 consistent with their needs, that will help them enter or reenter
18 gainful employment, thereby avoiding long-term welfare dependence and
19 achieving economic self-sufficiency. The program shall be operated by

1 the department of social and health services in conformance with
2 federal law and consistent with the following legislative findings:

3 (1) The legislature finds that the well-being of children depends
4 not only on meeting their material needs, but also on the ability of
5 parents to become economically self-sufficient. The job opportunities
6 and basic skills training program is specifically directed at
7 increasing the household earnings of aid to families with dependent
8 children recipients, through the removal of barriers preventing them
9 from achieving self-sufficiency. These barriers include, but are not
10 limited to, the lack of supportive services such as affordable and
11 reliable child care, adequate transportation, appropriate counseling,
12 and necessary job-related tools, equipment, books, clothing, and
13 supplies, the absence of basic literacy skills, the lack of educational
14 attainment sufficient to meet labor market demands for career
15 employees, and the nonavailability of useful labor market assessments.

16 (2) The legislature also recognizes that aid to families with
17 dependent children recipients must be acknowledged as active
18 participants in self-sufficiency planning under the program. The
19 legislature finds that the department of social and health services
20 should communicate concepts of personal empowerment, self-motivation,
21 and self-esteem to program participants. The legislature further
22 recognizes that informed choice is consistent with individual
23 responsibility, and that parents should be given a range of options for
24 available child care while participating in the program.

25 (3) The legislature finds that education, including, but not
26 limited to, literacy, high school equivalency, vocational, secondary,
27 and postsecondary, is one of the most important tools an individual
28 needs to achieve full independence, and that this should be an
29 important component of the program.

30 (4) The legislature finds that participation in a program of
31 community service and work experience provides recipients of aid to
32 families with dependent children with valuable experience and training
33 which can assist them in achieving employment and financial stability,
34 and will also provide them with job-related behaviors and skills.

35 (5) The legislature further finds that the objectives of this
36 program are to assure that aid to families with dependent children
37 recipients achieve financial stability and an adequate standard of
38 living at wages that will meet family needs.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.25.020 and 1993 c 312 s 7 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department of social and health services is authorized to
4 contract with public and private employment and training agencies and
5 other public service entities to provide services prescribed or allowed
6 under the federal social security act, as amended, to carry out the
7 purposes of the jobs training program. The department of social and
8 health services has sole authority and responsibility to carry out the
9 job opportunities and basic skills training program. No contracting
10 entity shall have the authority to review, change, or disapprove any
11 administrative decision, or otherwise substitute its judgment for that
12 of the department of social and health services as to the application
13 of policies and rules adopted by the department of social and health
14 services.

15 (2) To the extent feasible under federal law, the department of
16 social and health services and all entities contracting with it shall
17 give first priority of service to individuals volunteering for program
18 participation.

19 (3) The department of social and health services shall adopt rules
20 under chapter 34.05 RCW establishing criteria constituting
21 circumstances of good cause for an individual failing or refusing to
22 participate in an assigned program component, or failing or refusing to
23 accept or retain employment. These criteria shall include, but not be
24 limited to, the following circumstances: (a) If the individual is a
25 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
26 age six years, and the employment would require the individual to work
27 more than twenty hours per week; (b) if child care, or day care for an
28 incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent child,
29 is necessary for an individual to participate or continue participation
30 in the program or accept employment, and such care is not available,
31 and the department of social and health services fails to provide such
32 care; (c) the employment would result in the family of the participant
33 experiencing a net loss of cash income; or (d) circumstances that are
34 beyond the control of the individual's household, either on a short-
35 term or on an ongoing basis.

36 (4) The department of social and health services shall provide or
37 contract for a program of community work experience for recipients of
38 aid to families with dependent children, to the extent permitted under
39 federal law. The program shall actively involve recipients in

1 activities designed to promote community participation and development.
2 The department of social and health services shall establish criteria
3 constituting circumstances of compelling cause for an individual
4 failing or refusing to participate in the program of community work
5 experience established in this subsection. These criteria include, but
6 are not limited to, the following: (a) The individual is a parent or
7 other relative personally providing care for a child under six years of
8 age, and the employment would require the individual to participate
9 more than ten hours per week; (b) child care is necessary for an
10 individual to participate or continue participation in the program and
11 such care is not available, and the department of social and health
12 services fails to provide such care; or (c) extenuating circumstances
13 that are beyond the control of the individual's household, either on a
14 short-term or on an ongoing basis. The department of social and health
15 services shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to
16 effectuate the intent and purpose of this chapter.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 74.25 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 The department of social and health services shall seek all
20 necessary approvals from the federal government to permit recipients of
21 aid to families with dependent children to participate in a program of
22 community service and community involvement through the Washington
23 service corps.

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