

1 **SB 5652 - H AMD 754 ADOPTED 4/11/95**

2 By Representative Boldt

3 On page 1, strike everything after the enacting clause and  
4 insert the following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that those  
6 individuals who abuse and defraud the welfare system not only steal  
7 scarce resources, but also perpetuate myths about people on public  
8 assistance. The taxpayers of this state have limited resources  
9 with which to help those in need and it is imperative that the  
10 legislature use its authority to ensure that those resources are  
11 assisting the truly needy.

12 To protect the integrity of the welfare system the legislature  
13 must put into place mechanisms that guard against abuse. The  
14 message must be sent that we will not tolerate welfare fraud.

15 People who are caught abusing public trust by defrauding the  
16 welfare system should be punished and not allowed to receive public  
17 assistance.

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19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08.290 and 1959 c 26 s 74.08.290 are each  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (1) The department is hereby authorized to suspend temporarily  
22 the public assistance granted to any person for any period during  
23 which such person is not in need thereof.

24 (2) If a recipient is convicted of any crime or offense, and  
25 punished by imprisonment, no payment shall be made during the  
26 period of imprisonment.

27 (3)(a) If an applicant for or recipient of public assistance  
28 intentionally provides a false or misleading statement or commits  
29 an act which statement or act is designed to misrepresent, conceal,  
30 or withhold facts for the purpose of establishing or maintaining  
31 eligibility for public assistance or for the purpose of increasing,

1 or preventing a reduction in, the amount of a grant, then, the  
2 applicant or recipient shall be considered in violation of this  
3 subsection (3)(a) and shall be subject to the penalties provided in  
4 (b) of this subsection.

5 (b) An individual who is found to have committed a violation  
6 of (a) of this subsection by a state administrative law judge or by  
7 a state court or federal court shall be ineligible for continued  
8 public assistance for the following periods:

9 (i) Six months for the first violation;

10 (ii) Twelve months for the second violation; and

11 (iii) Permanently for the third violation.

12 For the purpose of applying these penalties, numerous violations on  
13 a single application, or in a single statement, made by an  
14 individual shall count as one violation.

15  
16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.04.062 and 1973 c 152 s 2 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 Upon written request of a person who has been properly  
19 identified as an officer of the law with a felony arrest warrant or  
20 a properly identified United States immigration official with a  
21 warrant for an illegal alien the department shall disclose to such  
22 officer the current address and location of the person properly  
23 described in the warrant. However, this rule does not restrict in  
24 any manner whatsoever the disclosure of address and location  
25 information by the department pursuant to its implementation of the  
26 federal "systematic alien verification for entitlements" program or  
27 pursuant to section 4 of this act.

28  
29 **NEW SECTION. Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08  
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 The department shall implement the federal "systematic alien  
32 verification for entitlements" program, the "SAVE" program. The  
33 department shall:

1 (a) Coordinate with other state agencies, including but not  
2 limited to the employment security department, to ensure that  
3 persons receiving federal or state funds are eligible in terms of  
4 citizenship and residency status;

5 (b) Post at every community service office a sign letting  
6 applicants and recipients know that illegal aliens will be reported  
7 to the United States immigration and naturalization service and  
8 that the systematic alien verification for entitlements system is  
9 in use in the office; and

10 (c) Systematically use all processes available to verify  
11 eligibility in terms of the citizenship and residency status of  
12 applicants and recipients for public assistance.

13  
14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall have the SAVE  
15 program in full force and effect by September 30, 1995, and report  
16 to the fiscal committees of the house of representatives and senate  
17 by December 1, 1995, regarding the progress of implementation and  
18 outcomes by region of the program."

19  
20 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Generally, persons who commit fraud for the purpose  
of obtaining public assistance or for the purpose of  
increasing or preserving the amount of a public assistance  
grant will be ineligible for assistance for six months for the  
first violation, twelve months for the second violation, and  
permanently for the third violation. Also, the Department of  
Social and Health Services is required to implement the  
federal "systematic alien verification for entitlements"  
program, the "SAVE" program.