

1 **SB 5652 - H COMM AMD RULED BEYOND SCOPE AND OBJECT 4/11/95**

2 By Committee on Children & Family Services

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.

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

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

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

26 (3)(a) If an applicant for or recipient of public assistance  
27 intentionally provides a false or misleading statement or commits

1 an act which statement or act is designed to misrepresent, conceal,  
2 or withhold facts for the purpose of establishing or maintaining  
3 eligibility for public assistance or for the purpose of increasing,  
4 or preventing a reduction in, the amount of a grant, then, the  
5 applicant or recipient shall be considered in violation of this  
6 subsection (3)(a) and shall be subject to the penalties provided in  
7 (b) of this subsection.

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

12 (i) Six months for the first violation;

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

14 (iii) Permanently for the third violation.

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

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 74.12  
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 If the department of social and health services determines  
21 that an applicant for public assistance is a fugitive from justice,  
22 the department shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency  
23 and deny the applicant's request for assistance. The department  
24 shall seek all necessary federal approvals and waivers to comply  
25 with this section.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.04.062 and 1973 c 152 s 2 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 Upon written request of a person who has been properly  
29 identified as an officer of the law with a felony arrest warrant or  
30 a properly identified United States immigration official with a  
31 warrant for an illegal alien the department shall disclose to such

1 officer the current address and location of the person properly  
2 described in the warrant. However, this rule does not restrict in  
3 any manner whatsoever the disclosure of address and location  
4 information by the department pursuant to its implementation of the  
5 federal "systematic alien verification for entitlements" program or  
6 pursuant to section 5 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 74.08  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The department shall implement the federal "systematic alien  
10 verification for entitlements" program, the "SAVE" program. The  
11 department shall:

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

16 (b) Post at every community service office a sign letting  
17 applicants and recipients know that illegal aliens will be reported  
18 to the United States immigration and naturalization service and  
19 that the systematic alien verification for entitlements system is  
20 in use in the office; and

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

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. The department shall have the SAVE  
25 program in full force and effect by September 30, 1995, and report  
26 to the fiscal committees of the house of representatives and senate  
27 by December 1, 1995, regarding the progress of implementation and  
28 outcomes by region of the program."

29 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 continued 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.