
SENATE BILL 5063

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators B. Sheldon, Winsley, Kohl-Welles, Thibaudeau, Patterson, Hale, Bauer, Kline, Oke, Eide, Brown, Costa and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/11/1999. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to adult recipients of temporary assistance for
2 needy families enrolled in education programs; amending RCW 74.08A.250
3 and 74.08A.260; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends that adult
6 recipients of temporary assistance for needy families eventually attain
7 unsubsidized employment. The ideal of welfare reform is to help those
8 in poverty find, maintain, and advance in jobs that offer wage
9 progression and benefits. Many of these jobs require education beyond
10 high school. Although federal welfare reform restricts and limits
11 higher education while receiving temporary assistance for needy
12 families, it is the intent of the legislature, for the long-term
13 benefit of both the recipient and society, to encourage and enable
14 those on assistance to obtain as much useful, marketable education as
15 they can. The legislature believes that it is short-sighted to
16 sanction those on assistance who are nearing completion of training
17 that will lead to employment.

18 In order to help enable recipients to obtain family wage jobs with
19 benefits and wage progression in occupations with market demand, it is

1 the intent of the legislature that the department of social and health
2 services, the employment security department, and community and
3 technical colleges work together more effectively to facilitate the
4 successful completion of higher educational course work by recipients.
5 Wherever the circumstances and educational progress of a recipient
6 would reasonably lead to timely course completion and employment, the
7 legislature intends that the recipient's grant be maintained without
8 sanction.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 1997 c 58 s 311 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this
12 chapter, "work activity" means:

- 13 (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;
- 14 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;
- 15 (3) Work experience, including work associated with the
16 refurbishing of publicly assisted housing, if sufficient paid
17 employment is not available;
- 18 (4) On-the-job training;
- 19 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 20 (6) Community service programs;
- 21 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months
22 with respect to any individual, except those recipients being assisted
23 in accordance with RCW 74.08A.260(7);
- 24 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 25 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a
26 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a GED;
- 27 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of
28 study leading to a GED, in the case of a recipient who has not
29 completed secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 30 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is
31 participating in a community service program; and
- 32 (12) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3) and
33 74.08A.010(3) to become employable.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 1997 c 58 s 313 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

1 ((Recipients who have not obtained paid, unsubsidized employment by
2 the end of the job search component authorized in section 312 of this
3 act shall be referred to a work activity.))

4 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed immediately upon completion of
5 the job search component. Assessments shall be based upon factors that
6 are critical to obtaining employment, including but not limited to
7 education, employment strengths, and employment history. Assessments
8 may be performed by the department or by a contracted entity. The
9 assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format
10 that will be accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the
11 recipient. Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
12 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
13 for moving the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the
14 obligation of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves
15 the recipient into whatever employment the recipient is capable of
16 handling as quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services
17 available to the recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep
18 employment.

19 (2) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities, and
20 do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270, shall
21 engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

22 (3) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
23 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the
24 recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it
25 appropriate, be terminated.

26 (4) The department may waive the penalties required under
27 subsection (3) of this section, subject to a finding that the recipient
28 refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW 74.08A.270.

29 (5) In implementing this section, the department shall assign the
30 highest priority to the most employable clients, including adults in
31 two-parent families and parents in single-parent families that include
32 older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in work
33 activities.

34 (6) In consultation with the recipient, the department or
35 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
36 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

37 (7) Upon request by an adult recipient of temporary assistance for
38 needy families who is threatened with sanction or has been sanctioned
39 by the department for insufficient countable work activity while

1 enrolled and participating in credit classes at a community, technical,
2 or trade college, and who has completed substantial coursework and can
3 reasonably be expected to obtain a certification or diploma from a
4 community, technical, or trade college within six months of the request
5 in an occupation or profession likely to result in employment, the
6 department shall evaluate and facilitate completion of school by
7 maintaining the recipient's grant, with cooperation of the community,
8 technical, or trade college, and the employment security department, as
9 appropriate. In cases where the requesting recipient's twenty-hour
10 temporary assistance for needy families' work activity requirement
11 conflicts with the community, technical, or trade college's nineteen-
12 hour work-study requirement, the department shall review the requesting
13 recipient's training progress and make a good faith effort to
14 accommodate the recipient through a deemed additional hour of community
15 service work or other means of facilitation, in order to maintain the
16 recipient's grant while the recipient completes his or her credit hours
17 and obtains a certification or diploma. This subsection creates a
18 rebuttable presumption in favor of an otherwise compliant recipient who
19 is sanctioned or subject to sanction and is seeking relief under this
20 subsection.

--- END ---