
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5522

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Labor & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley and Kohl-Welles)

Read first time 03/01/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to work activity provisions for recipients of
2 temporary assistance for needy families; and amending RCW 74.08A.260.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 1997 c 58 s 313 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

9 (1) (~~Each recipient shall be assessed immediately upon completion~~
10 ~~of the job search component. Assessments~~)) When an adult applicant
11 qualifies for temporary assistance for needy families, the department
12 shall make an initial assessment of the qualified adult, for the
13 purpose of employability screening, in order to determine if the
14 qualified adult has a condition indicating temporary deferrability from
15 WorkFirst work activities. The employability screening shall be based
16 upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including but
17 not limited to education, employment strengths, and employment history
18 and shall include such factors as homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse,
19 domestic violence victimization, limited English proficiency, and

1 illiteracy. (~~Assessments~~) Screening may be performed by the
2 department or by a contracted entity. The (~~assessment~~) screening
3 shall be based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format that will
4 be accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the recipient.
5 Based on the (~~assessment~~) employability screening and its findings,
6 an individual responsibility plan shall be prepared that: (a) Sets
7 forth an employment goal and a plan for moving the recipient
8 immediately into employment; (b) contains the obligation of the
9 recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves the recipient into
10 whatever employment the recipient is capable of handling as quickly as
11 possible; (d) recommends that adult recipients assure that their
12 school-age children attend school; (e) recommends that the recipient
13 obtain immunization of the child or children for whom the recipient is
14 responsible, and work toward completion of the state board of health's
15 recommended infectious disease immunization schedule, and the minimum
16 standards for the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and
17 treatment schedule for preschool children; and (~~(d)~~) (f) describes
18 the services available to the recipient to enable the recipient to
19 obtain and keep employment.

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

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

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

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

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

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