

HB 1980 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/14/2003

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

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

8 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed ~~((immediately upon completion
9 of the job search component))~~ after determination of program
10 eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be
11 based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including
12 but not limited to education, ~~((employment strengths, and employment
13 history))~~ availability of child care, history of family violence,
14 history of substance abuse, and other factors that affect the ability
15 to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed by the department
16 or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform,
17 consistent, transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies
18 and organizations serving the recipient. Based on the assessment, an
19 individual responsibility plan shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth
20 an employment goal and a plan for moving the recipient immediately into
21 employment; (b) contains the obligation of the recipient to become and
22 remain employed; (c) moves the recipient into whatever employment the
23 recipient is capable of handling as quickly as possible; and (d)
24 describes the services available to the recipient to enable the
25 recipient to obtain and keep employment.

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

29 (3) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities

1 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the
2 recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it
3 appropriate, be terminated.

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

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

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

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.275 and 1999 c 340 s 1 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 Each recipient approved to receive temporary assistance for needy
18 families shall be subject to an employability screening under RCW
19 74.08A.260 after determination of program eligibility and before
20 referral to job search. If the employability screening determines the
21 recipient is not employable, or meets the criteria specified in RCW
22 74.08A.270 for a good cause exemption to work requirements, the
23 department shall defer the job search requirement under RCW 74.08A.285
24 (~~and refer the recipient immediately to the assessment procedure~~
25 ~~required under RCW 74.08A.260~~)).

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.285 and 1998 c 89 s 1 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 The WorkFirst program operated by the department to meet the
29 federal work requirements specified in P.L. 104-193 shall contain a job
30 search component. The component shall consist of instruction on how to
31 secure a job and assisted job search activities to locate and retain
32 employment. Nonexempt recipients of temporary assistance for needy
33 families shall participate in an initial job search for no more than
34 twelve consecutive weeks. Each recipient shall receive a work skills
35 assessment upon referral to the job search program. The work skills

1 assessment shall include but not be limited to education, employment
2 history, employment strengths, and job skills. The recipient's ability
3 to obtain employment will be reviewed (~~within the first four weeks of~~
4 ~~job search and~~) periodically thereafter and, if it is clear at any
5 time that further participation in a job search will not be productive,
6 the department shall assess the recipient pursuant to RCW 74.08A.260.
7 The department shall refer recipients unable to find employment through
8 the initial job search period to work activities that will develop
9 their skills or knowledge to make them more employable, including
10 additional job search and job readiness assistance."

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11 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the
12 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 74.08A.260,
13 74.08A.275, and 74.08A.285."

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