
**Children & Family Services
Committee**

HB 1027

Brief Description: Describing services available to WorkFirst recipients.

Sponsors: Representative Nixon.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Clarifies a statutory reference to the list of work activities for which the Department of Social and Health Services may use performance-based competitive contracts in administering the WorkFirst program.

Hearing Date: 1/23/03

Staff: Cynthia Forland (786-7152).

Background:

In 1997, the Legislature authorized the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to use performance-based competitive contracts to provide all work activities authorized under the WorkFirst program.

According to a 2003 report by the Economic Services Administration of the DSHS, in Fiscal Year 2002, a total of 218 contractors provided WorkFirst services across the different service delivery regions of the state. The contractors were engaged in a variety of activities, including employment-focused services, barrier removal services, services for Limited English Proficiencies participants, and tribal services.

Under the WorkFirst program, the DSHS case managers and social workers serve as the central contact for all services that support and move clients toward self-sufficiency.

Summary of Bill:

The DSHS may engage in competitive contracting using performance-based contracts to provide services that fall within the definition of work activity— under the WorkFirst program to WorkFirst recipients.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.