
HOUSE BILL 1980

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representative Boldt

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to work activity requirements under the temporary
2 assistance for needy families program; 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))~~ within four weeks of becoming eligible
11 for the program. Assessments shall be based upon factors that are
12 critical to obtaining employment, including but not limited to
13 education, employment strengths, and employment history. Assessments
14 may be performed by the department or by a contracted entity. The
15 assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format
16 that will be accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the
17 recipient. Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
18 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
19 for moving the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the

1 obligation of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves
2 the recipient into whatever employment the recipient is capable of
3 handling as quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services
4 available to the recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep
5 employment.

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

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

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

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

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

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