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HOUSE BILL 2498

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representative Boldt

Read first time 01/15/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding constraints affecting the Washington  
2 WorkFirst program; and amending RCW 74.08A.340.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.340 and 1997 c 58 s 321 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
7 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.200 through  
8 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 74.13.0903 and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12 RCW  
9 within the following constraints:

10 (1) The full amount of the temporary assistance for needy families  
11 block grant, plus qualifying state expenditures as appropriated in the  
12 biennial operating budget, shall be appropriated to the department each  
13 year in the biennial appropriations act to carry out the provisions of  
14 the program authorized in RCW 74.08A.200 through 74.08A.330,  
15 43.330.145, 74.13.0903 and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12 RCW.

16 (2) The department may expend funds defined in subsection (1) of  
17 this section (~~in any manner~~), subject to approval of the legislature  
18 in the biennial appropriations act, that will effectively accomplish  
19 the outcome measures defined in RCW 74.08A.410. No more than fifteen

1 percent of the amount provided in subsection (1) of this section may be  
2 spent for administrative purposes. For the purpose of this subsection,  
3 "administrative purposes" does not include expenditures for information  
4 technology and computerization needed for tracking and monitoring  
5 required by P.L. 104-193. The department shall not increase grant  
6 levels to recipients of the program authorized in RCW 74.08A.200  
7 through 74.08A.330 and 43.330.145 and chapter 74.12 RCW.

8 (3) The department shall implement strategies that accomplish the  
9 outcome measures identified in RCW 74.08A.410 that are within the  
10 funding constraints in this section. Specifically, the department  
11 shall implement strategies that will cause the number of cases in the  
12 program authorized in RCW 74.08A.200 through 74.08A.330 and 43.330.145  
13 and chapter 74.12 RCW to decrease by at least fifteen percent during  
14 the 1997-99 biennium and by at least five percent in the subsequent  
15 biennium. The department may transfer appropriation authority between  
16 funding categories within the economic services program in order to  
17 carry out the requirements of this subsection.

18 (4) The department shall monitor expenditures against the  
19 appropriation levels provided for in subsection (1) of this section.  
20 The department shall quarterly make a determination as to whether  
21 expenditure levels will exceed available funding and communicate its  
22 finding to the legislature. If the determination indicates that  
23 expenditures will exceed funding at the end of the fiscal year, the  
24 department shall take all necessary actions to ensure that all services  
25 provided under this chapter shall be made available only to the extent  
26 of the availability and level of appropriation made by the legislature.

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