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SENATE BILL 6224

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Regala and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding parenting provisions in the WorkFirst  
2 program; and amending RCW 74.08A.250 and 74.08A.270.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2000 c 10 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
7 chapter, "work activity" means:

8 (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;

9 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
10 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
11 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

12 (3) Work experience, including:

13 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is  
14 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a  
15 license or certificate in a high demand field, as determined by the  
16 employment security department. No internship or practicum shall  
17 exceed twelve months; or

18 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted  
19 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;

- 1 (4) On-the-job training;
- 2 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 3 (6) Community service programs;
- 4 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months
- 5 with respect to any individual;
- 6 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 7 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a
- 8 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a GED;
- 9 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of
- 10 study leading to a GED, in the case of a recipient who has not
- 11 completed secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 12 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is
- 13 participating in a community service program;
- 14 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience
- 15 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or
- 16 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 17 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a
- 18 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in an
- 19 agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for purposes of
- 20 advancing their skills and knowledge; (~~and~~)
- 21 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3) and
- 22 74.08A.010(3) to become employable; and
- 23 (15) Satisfactory participation in instruction or training which
- 24 has the purpose of improving parenting skills or child well-being.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.270 and 2002 c 89 s 1 are each amended to read  
26 as follows:

- 27 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst
- 28 program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a
- 29 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
- 30 the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care
- 31 for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent
- 32 child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue
- 33 participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not
- 34 available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the
- 35 recipient is a parent with a child under the age of (~~one year~~)
- 36 eighteen months, except that at the time a child reaches the age of

1 three months, the recipient is required to participate in one of the  
2 following for up to twenty hours per week:

3 (i) Instruction or training which has the purpose of improving  
4 parenting skills or child well-being;

5 (ii) Preemployment or job readiness training;

6 (iii) Course study leading to a high school diploma or GED; or

7 (iv) Volunteering in a child care facility licensed under chapter  
8 74.15 RCW so long as the child care facility agrees to accept the  
9 recipient as a volunteer and the child without compensation while the  
10 parent is volunteering at the facility. The volunteer recipient and  
11 his or her child shall not be counted for the purposes of determining  
12 licensed capacity or the staff to child ratio of the facility.

13 (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from  
14 participating fully in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis. A  
15 recipient who chooses to participate fully in the WorkFirst program  
16 shall be considered to be fulfilling the requirements of this section.

17 (3) For any recipient who claims a good cause reason for failure to  
18 participate in the WorkFirst program based on the fact that the  
19 recipient has a child under the age of (~~one year~~) eighteen months,  
20 the department shall, within existing resources, conduct an assessment  
21 of the recipient within ninety days and before a job search component  
22 is initiated in order to determine if the recipient has any specific  
23 service needs or employment barriers. The assessment may include  
24 identifying the need for substance abuse treatment, mental health  
25 treatment, or domestic violence services, and shall be used in  
26 developing the recipient's individual responsibility plan.

27 (4) A parent may only receive the exemption under subsection (1)(b)  
28 of this section one time, for one child.

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