
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6305

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Prentice, Johnson and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to financial literacy; amending RCW 74.08A.250 and
2 74.08A.260; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that for a variety of
5 reasons, many citizens may lack the basic financial knowledge necessary
6 to spend their money wisely, save for the future, and manage money
7 challenges, such as a job loss, financing a college education, or a
8 catastrophic injury. The legislature also finds that financial
9 literacy is an essential element in achieving financial stability and
10 self-sufficiency. The legislature intends to encourage participation
11 in financial literacy activities by WorkFirst participants, in order to
12 promote their ability to make financial decisions that will contribute
13 to their long-term financial well-being.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2000 c 10 s 1 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

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

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

- 1 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,
2 including employment through the state or federal work-study program
3 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;
- 4 (3) Work experience, including:
- 5 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is
6 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a
7 license or certificate in a high demand field, as determined by the
8 employment security department. No internship or practicum shall
9 exceed twelve months; or
- 10 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted
11 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;
- 12 (4) On-the-job training;
- 13 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 14 (6) Community service programs;
- 15 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months
16 with respect to any individual;
- 17 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 18 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a
19 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a GED;
- 20 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of
21 study leading to a GED, in the case of a recipient who has not
22 completed secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 23 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is
24 participating in a community service program;
- 25 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience
26 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or
27 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 28 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a
29 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in an
30 agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for purposes of
31 advancing their skills and knowledge; (~~and~~)
- 32 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3) and
33 74.08A.010(3) to become employable; and
- 34 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in
35 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially
36 stable.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2003 c 383 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a
38 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging in

1 financial literacy activities or courses. The department shall
2 consider the options for financial literacy activities available in the
3 community, including information and resources available through the
4 financial literacy public-private partnership created under RCW
5 28A.300.450, and may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
6 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

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