

2SSB 6016 - H AMD 598

By Representative Kagi

WITHDRAWN 04/11/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.270 and 2002 c 89 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst
6 program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a
7 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
8 the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care
9 for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent
10 child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue
11 participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not
12 available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the
13 recipient is a parent with a child under the age of one year(~~(, except~~
14 ~~that at the time a child reaches the age of three months, the recipient~~
15 ~~is required to participate in one of the following for up to twenty~~
16 ~~hours per week:~~

17 ~~(i) Instruction or training which has the purpose of improving~~
18 ~~parenting skills or child well being;~~

19 ~~(ii) Preemployment or job readiness training;~~

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

21 ~~(iv) Volunteering in a child care facility licensed under chapter~~
22 ~~74.15 RCW so long as the child care facility agrees to accept the~~
23 ~~recipient as a volunteer and the child without compensation while the~~
24 ~~parent is volunteering at the facility. The volunteer recipient and~~
25 ~~his or her child shall not be counted for the purposes of determining~~
26 ~~licensed capacity or the staff to child ratio of the facility)).~~

27 (2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst
28 participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section may be required
29 to participate in one or more of the following, up to a maximum total

1 of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or training is
2 indicated:

3 (a) Mental health treatment;

4 (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;

5 (c) Domestic violence services; or

6 (d) Parenting education or skills training.

7 (3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good
8 cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and
9 access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and
10 promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation
11 programs and services; and (b) provide information to temporary
12 assistance for needy families caseworkers about the availability of
13 home visitation services and encourage appropriate referrals to home
14 visitation program providers.

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

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

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

31 (5) A parent is eligible for a good cause exemption under
32 subsection (1)(b) of this section for a maximum total of twelve months
33 over the parent's lifetime."

EFFECT: Clarifies that home visitation programs and services are

included in the types of services and programs that TANF caseworkers will help parents identify and access.

Directs DSHS to provide TANF caseworkers with information regarding the availability of home visitation programs and to encourage appropriate referrals to home visitation service providers for TANF clients with children under 12 months.

Removes the express directive to DSHS to collaborate with home visitation service providers for prioritizing TANF clients with children under 12 months.

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