
HOUSE BILL 1233

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, Kretz, McCune, Herrera, Klippert, Roach, Ross, Short, and Warnick

Read first time 01/15/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring recipients of temporary assistance for
2 needy families to participate in activities designed to reduce and
3 eliminate barriers to employment; and amending RCW 74.08A.260.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2006 c 107 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

1 into whatever employment the recipient is capable of handling as
2 quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services available to the
3 recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment.

4 (2) If the assessment conducted under this section or other
5 reliable information indicates the likelihood that the recipient's
6 reliance on public assistance is the result in whole or in part of the
7 recipient's substance abuse or chemical dependency, the individual
8 responsibility plan developed under this section shall include a
9 process for the recipient to engage in periodic urinalysis drug
10 testing, which may be accomplished through a treatment program, routine
11 employer screening of employees, or other lawful means. A recipient
12 required to engage in periodic drug testing under this subsection must
13 sign a release allowing for the results to be sent to the department.
14 If a recipient produces a positive test, he or she shall be required to
15 engage in a treatment program that includes a urinalysis test at the
16 conclusion of the program to confirm compliance with the goals of the
17 program, if not already engaged in such a program. If a recipient
18 refuses to submit to a urinalysis test, sign a release, or engage in
19 treatment, the department shall assign a protective payee for the
20 recipient.

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

24 ~~((+3))~~ (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work
25 activities required by the department, the family's grant shall be
26 reduced by the recipient's share, and may, if the department determines
27 it appropriate, be terminated.

28 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The department may waive the penalties required under
29 subsection ~~((+3))~~ (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the
30 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW
31 74.08A.270.

32 ~~((+5))~~ (6) In implementing this section, the department shall
33 assign the highest priority to the most employable clients, including
34 adults in two-parent families and parents in single-parent families
35 that include older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in
36 work activities.

37 ~~((+6))~~ (7) In consultation with the recipient, the department or

1 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
2 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

3 ((+7)) (8) Assessments conducted under this section shall include
4 a consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging
5 in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the
6 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,
7 including information and resources available through the financial
8 literacy public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450. The
9 department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
10 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

--- END ---