
SENATE BILL 5286

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Hargrove, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/09. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to exemptions from the WorkFirst program; and
2 amending RCW 74.08A.270.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.270 and 2007 c 289 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst
7 program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a
8 parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under
9 the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care
10 for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent
11 child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue
12 participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not
13 available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the
14 recipient is a parent with a child under the age of one year.

15 (2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst
16 participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section (~~may be required~~
17 ~~to participate~~) may not be required to participate in any activities
18 during the first ninety days following the birth of the child.
19 Thereafter, a parent whose preexisting comprehensive evaluation or

1 other assessment indicates a need for mental health, alcohol, or drug
2 treatment; domestic violence services; or parenting education or skills
3 training must be notified of the availability of these services and
4 encouraged to participate in one or more of the ((following)) services,
5 up to a maximum total of twenty hours per week((, if such treatment,
6 services, or training is indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or
7 other assessment:

- 8 ~~(a) Mental health treatment;~~
- 9 ~~(b) Alcohol or drug treatment;~~
- 10 ~~(c) Domestic violence services; or~~
- 11 ~~(d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if~~
12 available)). Parents must be notified of the availability of child
13 care support while they participate in these services.

14 (3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good
15 cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and
16 access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and
17 promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation
18 programs and services; and (b) provide information on the availability
19 of home visitation services to temporary assistance for needy families
20 caseworkers, who shall inform clients of the availability of the
21 services. If desired by the client, the caseworker shall facilitate
22 appropriate referrals to providers of home visitation services.

23 (4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from
24 participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

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

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