

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5286

61st Legislature
2009 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2009
YEAS 41 NAYS 7

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 13, 2009
YEAS 57 NAYS 40

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5286** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5286

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Regala, Hargrove, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/09.

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 shall not be
17 required to participate in any activities during the first ninety days
18 following the birth of the child. Thereafter, the parent may be
19 required to participate in one or more of the following, up to a

1 maximum total of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or
2 training is indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or other
3 assessment:

- 4 (a) Mental health treatment;
- 5 (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;
- 6 (c) Domestic violence services; or
- 7 (d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if available.

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

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

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

22 (6) The grant to a single-parent household claiming a good cause
23 exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall not be reduced
24 due to sanction for failure to participate in the activities described
25 under subsection (2) of this section. The department may, however,
26 assign or seek out a volunteer or responsible family member to serve as
27 a protective payee when a parent in need of mental health or substance
28 abuse treatment refuses to engage in treatment, and shall continue its
29 efforts to engage parents in appropriate supportive services and
30 treatment programs.

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