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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2262

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Hinkle, Darneille, Ladenburg, Walsh, Goodman, Carlyle, Fitzgibbon, Jenkins, Roberts, Ryu, and Kenney

Read first time 01/10/12. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to constraints of expenditures for WorkFirst and  
2 child care programs; amending RCW 43.88C.010; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 74.08A RCW; repealing RCW 74.08A.340; and providing an  
4 effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
9 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
10 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12  
11 RCW within the following constraints:

12 (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by  
13 the legislature and consistent with policy established by the  
14 legislature and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task  
15 force as provided in RCW 74.08A.260 to achieve self-sufficiency through  
16 work and the following additional outcomes:

17 (a) Recipients' economic status is improving through wage  
18 progression, job retention, and educational advancement;

1 (b) Recipients' status regarding housing stability, medical and  
2 behavioral health, and job readiness is improving;

3 (c) The well-being of children whose caretaker is receiving  
4 benefits on their behalf is improving with respect to child welfare and  
5 educational achievement.

6 (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows  
7 for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget  
8 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary  
9 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,  
10 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

11 (b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial  
12 spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this  
13 subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative  
14 fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight  
15 task force no later than July 1st of every odd-numbered year, beginning  
16 on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the legislative fiscal  
17 committees and the task force on the spending plan if modifications are  
18 made to the plan previously submitted to the legislature and the task  
19 force for that biennium.

20 (c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the  
21 fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive  
22 WorkFirst oversight task force beginning September 1, 2012, and on a  
23 quarterly basis thereafter. If the department determines, based upon  
24 quarterly expenditure reports, that expenditures will exceed funding at  
25 the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those actions  
26 necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter are  
27 available only to the extent of and consistent with appropriations in  
28 the operating budget and policy established by the legislature  
29 following notification provided in (b) of this subsection.

30 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
31 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
32 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative purposes.  
33 For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes" does not  
34 include expenditures for information technology and computerization  
35 needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L. 104-193.

36 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work  
37 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services  
38 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    RCW 74.08A.340 (Funding restrictions) and  
2    2009 c 564 s 953, 2008 c 329 s 922, 2007 c 522 s 957, 2006 c 265 s 209,  
3    & 1997 c 58 s 321 are each repealed.

4        **Sec. 3.**    RCW 43.88C.010 and 2011 c 304 s 2 are each amended to read  
5    as follows:

6        (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council  
7    shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four  
8    individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of the  
9    two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of  
10   representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from among  
11   the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other officers  
12   as the members deem necessary.

13       (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to  
14   supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this  
15   chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

16       (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the  
17   council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the  
18   supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each  
19   term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year  
20   term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by  
21   one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The  
22   supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes of  
23   this section.

24       (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation of  
25   and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the  
26   official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If  
27   the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in  
28   RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without  
29   approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved by  
30   the council.

31       (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
32   approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the  
33   supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on assumptions  
34   specified by the member.

35       (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without  
36   additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
37   accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council

1 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative  
2 members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in  
3 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

5 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement requirements  
6 and require the services of public assistance programs, state  
7 correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional  
8 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common  
9 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and  
10 adoption support;

11 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
12 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an  
13 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030.

14 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary  
15 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care  
16 programs as a courtesy.

17 (9) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions  
18 provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2012.

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