

**ESHB 1875** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Housing

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.08A.250 and 2013 c 39 s 27 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
6 chapter, "work activity" means:

7 (1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;

8 (2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector,  
9 including employment through the state or federal work-study program  
10 for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

11 (3) Work experience, including:

12 (a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is  
13 required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a  
14 license or certificate in a high-demand occupation, as determined by  
15 the employment security department. No internship or practicum shall  
16 exceed twelve months; or

17 (b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted  
18 housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;

19 (4) On-the-job training;

20 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;

21 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary  
22 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter  
23 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is  
24 enrolled;

25 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed (~~twelve~~)  
26 twenty-four months with respect to any individual. For the purposes  
27 of this section and RCW 74.08A.341, vocational educational training  
28 that exceeds twelve months is limited to vocational educational  
29 training for high-demand/high-wage jobs which means (a) information  
30 technology, health care or other professional-technical programs that  
31 can be completed in twenty-four months or less; or (b) certificate/  
32 degree completion, not to exceed a baccalaureate degree, in a high-  
33 wage/high-demand field on an exception basis. The high-wage/high-  
34 demand criteria for this option is based on median income and high-

1 demand occupations within the local labor market as determined by the  
2 employment security department;

3 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;

4 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a  
5 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school  
6 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;

7 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course  
8 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided  
9 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed  
10 secondary school or received such a certificate;

11 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is  
12 participating in a community service program;

13 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience  
14 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or  
15 nongovernmental agency setting;

16 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a  
17 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in  
18 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for  
19 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;

20 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3)  
21 and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;

22 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
23 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
24 stable; and

25 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
26 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
27 employment-related competencies.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.08A.341 and 2012 c 217 s 1 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 The department of social and health services shall operate the  
31 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
32 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12  
33 RCW within the following constraints:

34 (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by  
35 the legislature and consistent with policy established by the  
36 legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the  
37 following additional outcomes:

38 (a) Recipients' economic status is improving through wage  
39 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  
5 and 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,  
16 beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the  
17 legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending plan  
18 if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to the  
19 legislature and the task 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  
25 at the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those  
26 actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter  
27 are available only to the extent of and consistent with  
28 appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the  
29 legislature following notification provided in (b) of this  
30 subsection.

31 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
32 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
33 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative  
34 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"  
35 does not include expenditures for information technology and  
36 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.  
37 104-193.

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

1 The vocational education training work activity, as defined in RCW  
2 74.08A.250, is subject to the availability of amounts appropriated  
3 for this purpose.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The definition of "work activity" related to the length of  
7 vocational educational training a WorkFirst participant may receive  
8 as established under section 1 of this act shall be terminated on  
9 August 1, 2019, as provided in section 4 of this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.131  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter  
13 amended, are each repealed, effective August 1, 2020:

14 Section 1, chapter ..., Laws of 2015 (section 1 of this act)."

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15 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
16 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.08A.250 and  
17 74.08A.341; and adding new sections to chapter 43.131 RCW."

EFFECT: Vocational training exceeding twelve months is limited to  
training for high-demand/high-wage jobs, which is defined.

Adds the requirement that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review  
Committee conduct a sunset review by August 1, 2019. Replaces the 24-  
month limit for vocational educational training with a 12-month limit  
effective August 1, 2019. Repeals the 24-month limit provision  
effective August 1, 2020.

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