

ESHB 1875 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/04/2016

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 months  
26 with respect to any individual. This twelve-month limit may be  
27 increased to twenty-four months under the following conditions:

28 (a) For the purposes of this section and RCW 74.08A.341,  
29 vocational educational training that exceeds twelve months is limited  
30 to vocational educational training for high-demand/high-wage jobs  
31 which means (i) information technology, health care, or other  
32 professional-technical programs that can be completed in twenty-four

1 months or less; or (ii) certificate/degree completion, not to exceed  
2 a baccalaureate degree, in a high-wage/high-demand field on an  
3 exception basis. The high-wage/high-demand criteria for this option  
4 is based on median income and high-demand occupations within the  
5 local labor market as determined by the employment security  
6 department;

7 (b) The authorization to exceed the twelve-month limit is  
8 contingent on the individual making progress towards successful  
9 completion of the program; and

10 (c) The authorization to exceed the twelve-month limit applies  
11 only during state fiscal years in which the department projects that  
12 the state will comply with all federal requirements for temporary  
13 assistance for needy families work participation rates and will not  
14 be subject to a penalty;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in  
35 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially  
36 stable; and

37 (16) Parent education services or programs that support  
38 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and  
39 employment-related competencies.

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

3       The department of social and health services shall operate the  
4 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through  
5 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12  
6 RCW within the following constraints:

7       (1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by  
8 the legislature and consistent with policy established by the  
9 legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the  
10 following additional outcomes:

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

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

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

18       (2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows  
19 for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget  
20 structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary  
21 assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care,  
22 WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

23       (b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial  
24 spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this  
25 subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative  
26 fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight  
27 task force no later than July 1st of every odd-numbered year,  
28 beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the  
29 legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending plan  
30 if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to the  
31 legislature and the task force for that biennium.

32       (c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the  
33 fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive  
34 WorkFirst oversight task force beginning September 1, 2012, and on a  
35 quarterly basis thereafter. If the department determines, based upon  
36 quarterly expenditure reports, that expenditures will exceed funding  
37 at the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those  
38 actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter  
39 are available only to the extent of and consistent with  
40 appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the

1 legislature following notification provided in (b) of this  
2 subsection.

3 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for  
4 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and  
5 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative  
6 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"  
7 does not include expenditures for information technology and  
8 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.  
9 104-193.

10 (4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work  
11 activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services  
12 provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290.  
13 The vocational educational training work activity, as defined in RCW  
14 74.08A.250, is subject to the availability of amounts appropriated  
15 for this purpose.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.131  
17 RCW to read as follows:

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

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.131  
23 RCW to read as follows:

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

26 Section 1, chapter ..., Laws of 2016 (section 1 of this act)."

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27 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the  
28 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.08A.250 and  
29 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, and  
successful progress by the individual, and only during a fiscal year

in which DSHS projects compliance with federal TANF participation rates.

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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