
THIRD SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1482

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Sawyer, Kagi, Stambaugh, Caldier, Robinson, Springer, Hargrove, Tarleton, Ormsby, Doglio, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the legislative-executive
2 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force; amending RCW
3 74.08A.260 and 74.08A.341; adding new sections to chapter 74.08A RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that
7 intergenerational poverty, which passes from parents to children,
8 should be distinguished from situational poverty, which occurs after
9 an event like losing employment. Intergenerational poverty can affect
10 the lives of many future children and generations without the
11 development of specific strategies to stop this cycle.

12 The legislature finds that it is necessary to bring together
13 state agencies and other stakeholders for the purposes of policy and
14 program development to address intergenerational poverty and to
15 develop specific strategies to provide families the support they need
16 to overcome a history of poverty.

17 The legislature finds that the legislative-executive WorkFirst
18 oversight task force has recommended that its scope be modified to
19 include poverty reduction in order to provide a renewed focus on the
20 underlying causes of intergenerational poverty in Washington.
21 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a legislative-executive

1 WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force and an
2 intergenerational poverty advisory committee in order to lay the
3 groundwork in Washington for advancing intergenerational prosperity
4 and reducing poverty.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this act unless
8 the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Advisory committee" means the intergenerational poverty
10 advisory committee.

11 (2) "Cycle of poverty" or "poverty cycle" means the set of
12 factors or events by which the long-term poverty of a person is
13 likely to continue and be experienced by each child of the person
14 when the child becomes an adult unless there is outside intervention.

15 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health
16 services.

17 (4) "Intergenerational poverty" means poverty in which two or
18 more successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of
19 poverty and governmental dependence, and is not situational poverty.

20 (5) "Partner agency" means an executive branch agency represented
21 by a voting or nonvoting member of the task force.

22 (6) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social
23 and health services.

24 (7) "Task force" means the legislative-executive WorkFirst
25 poverty reduction oversight task force.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1)(a) A legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction
29 oversight task force is established, with voting members as provided
30 in this subsection. Task force membership shall include diverse,
31 statewide representation and its membership shall reflect regional,
32 racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of
33 all children and families in the state.

34 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
35 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

36 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
37 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
38 representatives.

1 (iii) The governor shall appoint eight members representing the
2 following agencies: The department of social and health services; the
3 department of children, youth, and families; the department of
4 commerce; the employment security department; the office of the
5 superintendent of public instruction; the department of health; the
6 department of corrections; and the state board for community and
7 technical colleges.

8 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs, one from among the
9 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.
10 The legislative members shall convene the initial meeting of the task
11 force.

12 (2) The governor shall appoint five nonvoting members to the task
13 force representing the:

14 (a) Commission on African-American affairs;

15 (b) State commission on Hispanic affairs;

16 (c) State commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;

17 (d) Governor's office of Indian affairs; and

18 (e) Office of financial management.

19 (3) The cochairs of the intergenerational poverty advisory
20 committee created in section 4 of this act shall serve as nonvoting
21 members of the task force.

22 (4) The task force shall:

23 (a) Oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst
24 program and temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure
25 that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;

26 (b) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst
27 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of
28 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language
29 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;

30 (c) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and
31 the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-
32 sufficiency;

33 (d) Collaborate with the advisory committee created in section 4
34 of this act to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address
35 adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty;

36 (e) Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from
37 service providers, community-based organizations, legislators, state
38 agencies, stakeholders, the business community, and subject matter
39 experts;

1 (f) Collaborate with partner agencies and the advisory committee
2 to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational
3 poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information
4 regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty
5 and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs; and

6 (g) Recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature
7 to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty.

8 (5)(a) The task force shall direct the department of social and
9 health services to develop a five-year and ten-year plan to address
10 intergenerational poverty, subject to oversight and approval by the
11 task force. Upon approval by the task force, the department must
12 submit the first set of plans to the governor and the appropriate
13 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019.

14 (b) The task force shall review the five-year and ten-year plans
15 annually and shall direct the department to update the plans as
16 determined necessary by the task force.

17 (6) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular
18 reports on:

19 (a) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and
20 performance measures established under this section;

21 (b) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of
22 those trends and expenditures on client services, including services
23 to historically underrepresented populations; and

24 (c) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on
25 the temporary assistance for needy families program and have lost
26 their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

27 (7) The task force may establish subcommittees to fulfill its
28 duties under this chapter.

29 (8) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
30 committee services, the house of representatives office of program
31 research, and the state agency members of the task force.

32 (9) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task force
33 shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the cochairs.

34 (10) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
35 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
36 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
37 are elected officials or participating on behalf of an employer,
38 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
39 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

1 (11) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
2 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
3 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
4 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor
5 committees.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08A
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) To assist the task force established in section 3 of this
9 act, there is created the intergenerational poverty advisory
10 committee.

11 (2) The advisory committee must include diverse, statewide
12 representation from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. The
13 committee membership must reflect regional, racial, and cultural
14 diversity to adequately represent the needs of all children and
15 families in the state.

16 (3) Members of the advisory committee are appointed by the
17 secretary, with the approval of the task force.

18 (4) The advisory committee must include representatives from:

- 19 (a) Advocacy groups that focus on childhood poverty issues;
- 20 (b) Advocacy groups that focus on education and early childhood
21 education issues;
- 22 (c) Academic experts in childhood poverty, education, or early
23 childhood education issues;
- 24 (d) Faith-based organizations that address childhood poverty,
25 education, or early childhood education issues;
- 26 (e) Tribal governments;
- 27 (f) Families impacted by poverty;
- 28 (g) Local government representatives that address childhood
29 poverty or education issues;
- 30 (h) The business community;
- 31 (i) A subject matter expert in infant mental health;
- 32 (j) The department of children, youth, and families; and
- 33 (k) The department.

34 (5) Each member of the advisory committee is appointed for a
35 four-year term unless a member is appointed to complete an unexpired
36 term. The secretary may adjust the length of term at the time of
37 appointment or reappointment so that approximately one-half of the
38 advisory committee is appointed every two years.

39 (6) The secretary may remove an advisory committee member:

1 (a) If the member is unable or unwilling to carry out the
2 member's assigned responsibilities; or

3 (b) For good cause.

4 (7) If a vacancy occurs in the advisory committee membership for
5 any reason, a replacement may be appointed for the unexpired term.

6 (8) The advisory committee shall choose cochaIRS from among its
7 membership. The secretary shall convene the initial meeting of the
8 advisory committee.

9 (9) A majority of the advisory committee constitutes a quorum of
10 the advisory committee at any meeting and the action of the majority
11 of members present is the action of the advisory committee.

12 (10) The advisory committee shall:

13 (a) Meet quarterly at the request of the task force cochaIRS or
14 the cochaIRS of the advisory committee;

15 (b) Make recommendations to the task force on how the task force
16 and the state can effectively address the needs of children affected
17 by intergenerational poverty and achieve the purposes and duties of
18 the task force as described in section 3 of this act;

19 (c) Ensure that the advisory committee's recommendations to the
20 task force are supported by verifiable data; and

21 (d) Gather input from diverse communities about the impact of
22 intergenerational poverty on outcomes such as education, health care,
23 employment, involvement in the child welfare system, and other
24 related areas.

25 (11) The department shall provide staff support to the advisory
26 committee and shall endeavor to accommodate the participation needs
27 of its members. Accommodations may include considering the location
28 and time of committee meetings, making options available for remote
29 participation by members, and convening meetings of the committee in
30 locations with proximity to available child care whenever feasible.

31 (12) Members of the advisory committee may receive reimbursement
32 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 21 s 1 are each
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of
36 program eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments
37 shall be based upon factors that are critical to obtaining
38 employment, including but not limited to education, availability of
39 child care, history of family violence, history of substance abuse,

1 and other factors that affect the ability to obtain employment.
2 Assessments may be performed by the department or by a contracted
3 entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent,
4 transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies and
5 organizations serving the recipient.

6 (2) Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan
7 shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan
8 for maximizing the recipient's success at meeting the employment
9 goal; (b) considers WorkFirst educational and training programs from
10 which the recipient could benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the
11 recipient to participate in the program by complying with the plan;
12 (d) moves the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as
13 quickly as possible; and (e) describes the services available to the
14 recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to
15 obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace and
16 increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

17 (3) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities,
18 and do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270,
19 shall engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

20 (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities
21 required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by
22 the recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it
23 appropriate, be terminated.

24 (5) The department may waive the penalties required under
25 subsection (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the
26 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW
27 74.08A.270.

28 (6) In consultation with the recipient, the department or
29 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
30 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

31 (7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a
32 consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging
33 in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the
34 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,
35 including information and resources available through the financial
36 education public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450.
37 The department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
38 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under
39 WorkFirst.

1 (8)~~((a))~~) Subsections (2) through (6) of this section are
2 suspended for a recipient who is a parent or other relative
3 personally providing care for a child under the age of two years.
4 This suspension applies to both one and two parent families. However,
5 both parents in a two-parent family cannot use the suspension during
6 the same month. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a recipient
7 from participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

8 ~~((b)(i) The period of suspension of work activities under this
9 subsection provides an opportunity for the legislative and executive
10 branches to oversee redesign of the WorkFirst program. To realize
11 this opportunity, both during the period of suspension and following
12 reinstatement of work activity requirements as redesign is being
13 implemented, a legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force
14 is established, with members as provided in this subsection (8)(b).~~

15 ~~(ii) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
16 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.~~

17 ~~(iii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
18 two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
19 representatives.~~

20 ~~(iv) The governor shall appoint members representing the
21 department of social and health services, the department of early
22 learning, the department of commerce, the employment security
23 department, the office of financial management, and the state board
24 for community and technical colleges.~~

25 ~~(v) The task force shall choose cochairs, one from among the
26 legislative members and one from among the executive branch members.
27 The legislative members shall convene the initial meeting of the task
28 force.~~

29 ~~(c) The task force shall:~~

30 ~~(i) Oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign
31 of the WorkFirst program and operation of the temporary assistance
32 for needy families program to ensure that the programs are achieving
33 desired outcomes for their clients;~~

34 ~~(ii) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst
35 program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of
36 historically underrepresented populations, such as English language
37 learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;~~

38 ~~(iii) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients
39 and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-
40 sufficiency;~~

1 ~~(iv) Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature~~
2 ~~regarding:~~

3 ~~(A) Policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst~~
4 ~~program over time;~~

5 ~~(B) Early identification of those recipients most likely to~~
6 ~~experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their~~
7 ~~ability to achieve progress toward self-sufficiency; and~~

8 ~~(C) Necessary changes to the program, including taking into~~
9 ~~account federal changes to the temporary assistance for needy~~
10 ~~families program.~~

11 ~~(d) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular~~
12 ~~reports on:~~

13 ~~(i) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and~~
14 ~~performance measures established under (c) of this subsection;~~

15 ~~(ii) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of~~
16 ~~those trends and expenditures on client services, including services~~
17 ~~to historically underrepresented populations; and~~

18 ~~(iii) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful~~
19 ~~on the program and have lost their benefits either through sanction~~
20 ~~or the sixty-month time limit.~~

21 ~~(e) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate~~
22 ~~committee services, the house of representatives office of program~~
23 ~~research, and the state agency members of the task force.~~

24 ~~(f) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis beginning~~
25 ~~September 2011, or as determined necessary by the task force~~
26 ~~cochairs.~~

27 ~~(g) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task force~~
28 ~~shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the~~
29 ~~cochairs.))~~

30 **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.08A.341 and 2012 c 217 s 1 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 The department of social and health services shall operate the
33 Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through
34 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, ((43.215.545)) 43.216.710, and 74.25.040, and
35 chapter 74.12 RCW within the following constraints:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for
34 needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and
35 qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative
36 purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes"
37 does not include expenditures for information technology and
38 computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L.
39 104-193.

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

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