
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5347

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (originally sponsored by Senators Walsh, Darneille, Zeiger, Rolfes, Sheldon, Angel, and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of work activity for the
2 purposes of the WorkFirst program; amending RCW 74.08A.250; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.08A RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.250 and 2013 c 39 s 27 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

13 (3) Work experience, including:

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

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

21 (4) On-the-job training;

- 1 (5) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- 2 (6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary
3 service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter
4 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is
5 enrolled;
- 6 (7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed (~~twelve~~)
7 twenty-four months with respect to any individual;
- 8 (8) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- 9 (9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a
10 recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a high school
11 equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;
- 12 (10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course
13 of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate as provided
14 in RCW 28B.50.536, in the case of a recipient who has not completed
15 secondary school or received such a certificate;
- 16 (11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is
17 participating in a community service program;
- 18 (12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience
19 performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or
20 nongovernmental agency setting;
- 21 (13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a
22 student is working under the close supervision of a professional in
23 an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for
24 purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;
- 25 (14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3)
26 and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;
- 27 (15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in
28 assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially
29 stable; and
- 30 (16) Parent education services or programs that support
31 development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and
32 employment-related competencies.

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

35 The joint legislative audit and review committee must review the
36 impact of extending the amount of vocational training time that
37 qualifies for work activity from twelve months to twenty-four months.
38 The joint legislative audit and review committee shall report its

1 findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December
2 1, 2025. The review must include:

3 (1) An analysis of the increase in the number of participants
4 that qualify for temporary assistance for needy families due to the
5 extended training time; and

6 (2) A comparison of employment and earnings outcomes for
7 individuals that qualified due to extended training time compared to
8 other temporary assistance for needy families participants.

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