

2SSB 5493 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services & Early Learning

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

3 "**Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.280 and 1997 c 58 s 315 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature finds that moving those (~~eligible for~~
6 ~~assistance~~) living in poverty to self-sustaining employment is a
7 goal of (~~the WorkFirst program. It is the intent of WorkFirst to~~)
8 public assistance programs and state poverty reduction efforts. State
9 poverty reduction efforts intend to effectively aid (~~a participant's~~
10 ~~progress~~) families and individuals with low incomes in progressing
11 to self-sufficiency by allowing flexibility within (~~the~~) statewide
12 programs to reflect community resources, the local characteristics of
13 the labor market, the diversity of local communities, and the
14 (~~composition of the caseload. Program success~~) needs of those
15 experiencing poverty. Success in reducing poverty, and the
16 disproportionate impact of chronic and intergenerational poverty on
17 particular demographic groups that have experienced historic
18 disparities or discrimination, will be enhanced through effective
19 coordination and collaboration at regional and local levels,
20 involving employers, labor representatives, educators, community
21 leaders, (~~local~~) city, county, and tribal governments, community
22 action agencies, and behavioral health, housing, early learning,
23 transportation, and other social service providers.

24 (2) The (~~department, through its~~) department's regional and
25 community service offices, through local service advisory and
26 partnership boards, shall collaborate with employers, public
27 assistance recipients, frontline workers, educational institutions,
28 labor, (~~private industry councils, the workforce training and~~
29 education coordinating board) workforce development councils,
30 community rehabilitation employment programs, employment and training
31 agencies, local governments, the employment security department, and

1 community action agencies to develop work and work preparations
2 programs that are effective (~~and work~~) in their communities. For
3 planning purposes, the department shall collect and make accessible
4 to regional offices and the local service area advisory and
5 partnership boards established under subsection (3) of this section,
6 successful work program models from around the United States (~~7~~
7 ~~including the employment partnership program, apprenticeship~~
8 ~~programs, microcredit, microenterprise, self-employment, and W-2~~
9 ~~Wisconsin works~~). Work programs shall incorporate local
10 (~~volunteer~~) citizens in their planning and implementation phases to
11 ensure community relevance and success.

12 (3) The department shall ensure that local service area advisory
13 and partnership boards are established and provide staffing
14 assistance to them. The local service area advisory and partnership
15 boards shall meet at least quarterly and shall:

16 (a) Promote effective communication and collaboration among
17 department local community service offices, local governments,
18 community action agencies, and other service providers;

19 (b) Advise and comment on department program policies;

20 (c) Work to resolve local issues including client referral and
21 service gaps;

22 (d) Review local data and racial disproportionality trends;

23 (e) Review public assistance client feedback;

24 (f) Propose innovative and evidence-based collaborative services;

25 and

26 (g) Provide input for the plans developed under subsection (6) of
27 this section.

28 (4) To reduce administrative costs and to ensure equal statewide
29 access to services, the department may develop contracts for
30 statewide (~~welfare-to-work~~) employment and training services. These
31 statewide contracts shall support regional flexibility and ensure
32 that resources follow local labor market opportunities and public
33 assistance recipients' needs.

34 (~~(4)~~) (5) The secretary shall establish (~~WorkFirst~~) service
35 areas for purposes of planning (~~WorkFirst~~) programs (~~and for~~),
36 distributing (~~WorkFirst~~) resources, and fostering local
37 collaborations with community partners to reduce chronic
38 intergenerational poverty in communities. Service areas shall reflect
39 department regions.

1 (~~(5)~~) (6) By July 31st of each odd-numbered year, a plan for
2 (~~the WorkFirst program~~) local collaboration shall be developed for
3 each (~~region~~) local service area. The plan shall be prepared in
4 consultation with local and regional sources, adapting the statewide
5 (~~WorkFirst program~~) services to achieve maximum effect for the
6 participants and the communities within which they reside. Local
7 consultation shall include to the greatest extent possible input from
8 local and regional planning bodies for social services and workforce
9 development. The regional and local administrator shall consult with
10 employers of various sizes, labor representatives, training and
11 education providers, program participants, economic development
12 organizations, community organizations, tribes, and local governments
13 in the preparation of the service area plan.

14 (~~(6)~~) (7) The secretary has final authority in plan approval or
15 modification. (~~Regional~~) Local service area program implementation
16 may deviate from the statewide program if specified in a service area
17 plan, as approved by the secretary."

18 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Adds an intent for statewide poverty reduction programs to reflect the diversity of local communities.

(2) States that success in reducing poverty includes reducing the disproportionate impact of chronic and intergenerational poverty on groups that have experienced historic disparities or discrimination.

(3) Adds community action agencies as entities with whom the local service area advisory and partnership boards (LSAPB) must collaborate.

(4) Requires the LSAPB to review trends in racial disproportionality in local data.

(5) Strikes the term "welfare-to-work" and adds employment and training as services for which the Department of Social and Health Services may develop statewide contracts.

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