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**HOUSE BILL 1573**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Ortiz-Self, Kilduff, Lovick, Goodman, Frame, Senn, Callan, Appleton, Thai, Robinson, Lekanoff, Davis, Macri, and Leavitt

Read first time 01/24/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating a program orientation as a  
2 condition of eligibility and lessening noncompliance sanctions for  
3 the temporary assistance for needy families program; and reenacting  
4 and amending RCW 74.08A.260.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2018 c 126 s 5 and 2018 c 58 s 8 are  
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of  
9 program eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments  
10 shall be based upon factors that are critical to obtaining  
11 employment, including but not limited to education, availability of  
12 child care, history of family violence, history of substance abuse,  
13 and other factors that affect the ability to obtain employment.  
14 Assessments may be performed by the department or by a contracted  
15 entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent,  
16 transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies and  
17 organizations serving the recipient.

18 (2) The department may not require applicants for temporary  
19 assistance for needy families to attend an orientation as a condition  
20 of eligibility.

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

12        ~~((3))~~ (4) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work  
13 activities, and do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW  
14 74.08A.270, shall engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW  
15 74.08A.330.

16        ~~((4))~~ (5) If a recipient refuses for four consecutive months to  
17 engage in work and work activities required by the department, the  
18 family's grant shall be reduced by the recipient's share, and may, if  
19 the department determines it appropriate, be terminated.

20        ~~((5))~~ (6) The department may waive the penalties required under  
21 subsection ~~((4))~~ (5) of this section, subject to a finding that the  
22 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW  
23 74.08A.270.

24        ~~((6))~~ (7) In consultation with the recipient, the department or  
25 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is  
26 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

27        ~~((7))~~ (8) Assessments conducted under this section shall  
28 include a consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of  
29 engaging in financial literacy activities. The department shall  
30 consider the options for financial literacy activities available in  
31 the community, including information and resources available through  
32 the financial education public-private partnership created under RCW  
33 28A.300.450. The department may authorize up to ten hours of  
34 financial literacy activities as a core activity or an optional  
35 activity under WorkFirst.

36        ~~((8))~~ (9) Subsections ~~((2))~~ (3) through ~~((6))~~ (7) of this  
37 section are suspended for a recipient who is a parent or other  
38 relative personally providing care for a child under the age of two  
39 years. This suspension applies to both one and two parent families.  
40 However, both parents in a two-parent family cannot use the

1 suspension during the same month. Nothing in this subsection shall  
2 prevent a recipient from participating in the WorkFirst program on a  
3 voluntary basis.

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