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HOUSE BILL 2007

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State of Washington

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2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Peterson, Gregerson, Alvarado, Berry, Senn, Morgan, Leavitt, Reed, Ormsby, Kloba, Macri, Doglio, Bergquist, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Santos, and Hackney

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1 AN ACT Relating to expanding time limit exemptions applicable to  
2 cash assistance programs; and amending RCW 74.08A.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2023 c 418 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary  
7 assistance for needy families for 60 months after July 27, 1997,  
8 shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy  
9 families assistance.

10 (2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the  
11 department shall count any month in which an adult family member  
12 received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance  
13 grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member  
14 was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the  
15 head of the household.

16 (3) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized  
17 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims'  
18 programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'  
19 compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

20 (4) The department shall add to adopted rules related to  
21 temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions, the

1 following criteria by which the department shall exempt a recipient  
2 and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of  
3 this section:

4 (a) By reason of hardship, including when:

5 (i) The recipient's family includes a child or youth who is  
6 without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as  
7 described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act  
8 (Title 42 U.S.C., chapter 119, subchapter VI, part B) as it existed  
9 on January 1, 2020;

10 (ii) The recipient received temporary assistance for needy  
11 families during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when Washington  
12 state's unemployment rate as published by the Washington employment  
13 security department was equal to or greater than seven percent, and  
14 the recipient is otherwise eligible for temporary assistance for  
15 needy families except that they have exceeded 60 months. The  
16 extension provided for under this subsection (4)(a)(ii) is equal to  
17 the number of months that the recipient received temporary assistance  
18 for needy families during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when the  
19 unemployment rate was equal to or greater than seven percent, and is  
20 applied sequentially to any other hardship extensions that may apply  
21 under this subsection (4) or in rule; ~~((~~or~~))~~

22 (iii) Beginning July 1, 2022, the Washington state unemployment  
23 rate most recently published by the Washington employment security  
24 department is equal to or greater than seven percent; or

25 (iv) Termination or denial of cash assistance would result in  
26 financial distress for the recipient's family; or

27 (b) If the family includes an individual who meets the family  
28 violence options of section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal  
29 social security act as amended by P.L. 104-193.

30 (5) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her  
31 family from the application of subsection (1) of this section until  
32 after the recipient has received 52 months of assistance under this  
33 chapter.

34 (6) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for  
35 a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive  
36 temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in  
37 full-family sanction status. If a member of a household has been  
38 sanctioned but the household is still receiving benefits, the  
39 remaining eligible household members may receive transitional food

1 assistance. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's  
2 basic food certification until the end of the transition period.

3 (7) The department may adopt rules specifying which published  
4 employment security department unemployment rates to use for the  
5 purposes of subsection (4)(a)(ii) and (iii) of this section.

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