
HOUSE BILL 1845

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Scott, Reed, Parshley, Doglio, Obras, Thai, and Macri

Read first time 02/05/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to payment standards for cash assistance
2 programs; and amending RCW 74.04.770.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.04.770 and 2021 c 9 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department shall establish consolidated standards of need
7 each fiscal year which may vary by geographical areas, program, and
8 family size, for temporary assistance for needy families, refugee
9 assistance, (~~supplemental security income,~~) and benefits under RCW
10 74.62.030.

11 (2)(a) Standards of need for temporary assistance for needy
12 families, refugee assistance, and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 shall
13 be based on studies of actual living costs and generally recognized
14 inflation indices and shall include reasonable allowances for basic
15 household needs including shelter, fuel, food, transportation,
16 clothing, household maintenance and operations, personal maintenance,
17 necessary incidentals, cell phone and internet, and out-of-pocket
18 costs for child care and health care.

19 (b) By July 1, 2022, to ensure the standards of need reflect the
20 current goods and services households need, the department must use
21 an existing, broadly used national standard that meets the

1 requirements of (a) of this subsection as the base for annual
2 updating in subsection (1) of this section.

3 (c) The standard of need may take into account the economies of
4 joint living arrangements, but unless explicitly required by federal
5 statute, there shall not be proration of any portion of assistance
6 grants unless the amount of the grant standard is equal to the
7 standard of need.

8 (3) The department is authorized to establish rateable reductions
9 and grant maximums consistent with federal law.

10 ~~((3))~~ (4) ~~Payment level will be equal to need or a lesser~~
11 ~~amount if rateable reductions or grant maximums are imposed)~~ levels
12 for temporary assistance for needy families, refugee cash assistance,
13 and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 will be no less than 16 percent of
14 need or the previous year's payment level, whichever is greater.
15 However, payment levels may not increase by more than three percent
16 in any single state fiscal year based on this subsection. In no case
17 shall a recipient of supplemental security income receive a state
18 supplement less than the minimum required by federal law.

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