
SENATE BILL 5079

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Muzzall, Christian, Dozier, Frame, Krishnadasan, Lias, and Trudeau; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

Prefiled 12/19/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the burden of unintentional
2 overpayments on older adults and adults with disabilities served by
3 the department of social and health services; amending RCW
4 43.20B.030; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.20B.030 and 2012 c 258 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, including subsection (2)
9 of this section, there will be no collection of overpayments and
10 other debts due the department after the expiration of six years from
11 the date of notice of such overpayment or other debt unless the
12 department has commenced recovery action in a court of law or unless
13 an administrative remedy authorized by statute is in place. However,
14 any amount due in a case thus extended shall cease to be a debt due
15 the department at the expiration of (~~ten~~) 10 years from the date of
16 the notice of the overpayment or other debt unless a court-ordered
17 remedy would be in effect for a longer period.

18 (2) There will be no collection of debts due the department after
19 the expiration of (~~twenty~~) 20 years from the date a lien is
20 recorded pursuant to RCW 43.20B.080.

1 (3) The department, at any time, may accept offers of compromise
2 of disputed claims or may grant partial or total write-off of any
3 debt due the department if it is no longer cost-effective to pursue.
4 The department shall adopt rules establishing the considerations to
5 be made in the granting or denial of a partial or total write-off of
6 debts.

7 (4) Notwithstanding the requirements of RCW 43.20B.630,
8 43.20B.635, 43.20B.640, and 43.20B.645, the department may waive all
9 efforts to collect overpayments from a client when the department
10 determines that the elements of equitable estoppel as set forth in
11 WAC 388-02-0495, as it existed on January 1, 2012, are met.

12 (5) Beginning July 1, 2025, the department may waive all efforts
13 to collect overpayments of the aged, blind, or disabled assistance
14 program under RCW 74.62.030 and to functionally disabled clients
15 receiving services and supports provided under chapters 74.39, 74.39A
16 and 71A.12 RCW. The department shall adopt rules establishing the
17 circumstances when the department will waive efforts at collection.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
20 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
21 effect July 1, 2025.

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