
SENATE BILL 5785

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Lovelett and C. Wilson; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

1 AN ACT Relating to transitional food assistance; and amending RCW
2 74.08A.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2021 c 239 s 1 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 sixty 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 adopt regulations to apply the sixty-
17 month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and
18 ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any
19 regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

20 (4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized
21 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims'

1 programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'
2 compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

3 (5) (a) The department shall add to adopted rules related to
4 temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions, the
5 following criteria by which the department shall exempt a recipient
6 and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of
7 this section:

8 (i) By reason of hardship, including when:

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

14 (B) The recipient received temporary assistance for needy
15 families during a month on or after March 1, 2020, when Washington
16 state's unemployment rate as published by the Washington employment
17 security department was equal to or greater than seven percent, and
18 the recipient is otherwise eligible for temporary assistance for
19 needy families except that they have exceeded 60 months. The
20 extension provided for under this subsection (5) (a) (i) (B) is equal to
21 the number of months that the recipient received temporary assistance
22 for needy families during a month after March 1, 2020, when the
23 unemployment rate was equal to or greater than seven percent, and is
24 applied sequentially to any other hardship extensions that may apply
25 under this subsection (5) or in rule; or

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

29 (b) Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient
30 will be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of
31 this section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own
32 behalf, and parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child
33 similarly, unless required otherwise under federal law.

34 (6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her
35 family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section
36 until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance
37 under this chapter.

38 (7) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for
39 a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive
40 temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in

1 full-family sanction status. If a member of a household has been
2 sanctioned but the household is still receiving benefits, the
3 remaining eligible household members may receive transitional food
4 assistance. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's
5 basic food certification until the end of the transition period.

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