
HOUSE BILL 1755

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representative Peterson; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

Prefiled 01/04/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to temporary assistance for needy families time
2 limit extensions during times of high unemployment; and amending RCW
3 74.08A.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2021 c 239 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

17 (3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-
18 month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and
19 ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any
20 regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (C) Beginning July 1, 2022, the Washington state unemployment
29 rate most recently published by the Washington employment security
30 department is equal to or greater than seven percent; or

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

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

39 (6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her
40 family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section

1 until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance
2 under this chapter.

3 (7) The department shall provide transitional food assistance for
4 a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive
5 temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in
6 sanction status. If necessary, the department shall extend the
7 household's basic food certification until the end of the transition
8 period.

9 (8) The department may adopt rules specifying which published
10 employment security department unemployment rates to use for the
11 purposes of subsection (5) (a) (i) (B) and (C) of this section.

--- END ---