
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2007

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Peterson, Gregerson, Alvarado, Berry, Senn, Morgan, Leavitt, Reed, Ormsby, Kloba, Macri, Doglio, Bergquist, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Santos, and Hackney)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding time limit exemptions applicable to
2 cash assistance programs; amending RCW 74.08A.010; creating a new
3 section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.010 and 2023 c 418 s 3 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 60 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 refer recipients who require specialized
18 assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims'
19 programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims'
20 compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (iv) The recipient qualifies for an exemption from WorkFirst
28 activities, as defined by the department in rule; or

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

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

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

1 remaining eligible household members may receive transitional food
2 assistance. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's
3 basic food certification until the end of the transition period.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
9 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
10 provided by June 30, 2024, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
11 act is null and void.

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