
SENATE BILL 5811

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Moyer, Schow, Deccio, Strannigan, McCaslin, West and Oke

Read first time 02/07/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishment of paternity for purposes of
2 receiving public assistance; adding a new section to chapter 74.08 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.12 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing a contingent expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.08 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) A family or assistance unit is not eligible for benefits for
9 any child in any month that paternity has not been established for that
10 child in the applicant's family or assistance unit. All children in
11 the family unit are eligible for food stamps and medical assistance
12 pending the paternity investigation. Applicants shall cooperate fully
13 with the department in determining paternity unless there is good cause
14 not to do so.

15 (2) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW
16 establishing criteria constituting circumstances of good cause for
17 purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

1 (3) The secretary may allow exceptions to subsection (1) of this
2 section where the secretary personally finds that life-threatening
3 hardship would result from the denial of benefits.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A family or assistance unit is not eligible for benefits in any
7 month that paternity has not been established for all children in the
8 applicant's family or assistance unit. Applicants shall cooperate
9 fully with the department in determining paternity unless there is good
10 cause not to do so.

11 (2) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW
12 establishing criteria constituting circumstances of good cause for
13 purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

14 (3) The secretary may allow exceptions to subsection (1) of this
15 section where the secretary personally finds that life-threatening
16 hardship would result from the denial of benefits.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The governor and the department of social
18 and health services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers
19 from and amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations and
20 shall report to the appropriate committees in the house of
21 representatives and senate quarterly on the efforts to secure the
22 federal changes to permit full implementation of this act at the
23 earliest possible date.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In the event that the department of social
25 and health services is not able to obtain the necessary exemptions,
26 waivers, or amendments referred to in section 3 of this act before
27 January 1, 1998, this act shall expire on that date and shall have no
28 further force or effect.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any part of this act is found to be in
30 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
31 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
32 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
33 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
34 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
35 the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal

1 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
2 funds by the state.

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