

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 654
98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1578H.02C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 208, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to nonmedical public assistance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 208, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 208.026 and 208.067, to read as follows:

208.026. 1. For the purposes of this section and sections 208.040 and 208.244, "work activities" shall have the same meaning as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 607(d), including:

- (1) Unsubsidized employment;**
- (2) Subsidized private sector employment;**
- (3) Subsidized public sector employment;**
- (4) Work experience, including work associated with refurbishing of publicly assisted housing, if sufficient private sector employment is not available;**
- (5) On-the-job training;**
- (6) Job search and job readiness assistance, which shall include utilization of the state employment database website. The department shall, in conjunction with the department of economic development, create a database tracking method in order to track temporary assistance for needy families benefits recipients' utilization of the employment database for the purpose of recording work activities, as well as include information on the state employment database website about the temporary assistance for needy families program's eligibility and work requirements, application process, and contact information;**
- (7) Community service programs;**
- (8) Vocational educational training, provided that such training does not exceed twelve months for any individual;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 19 **(9) Job skills training directly related to employment;**
20 **(10) Education directly related to employment for individuals who have not**
21 **received a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency;**
22 **(11) Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school, provided that the individual has**
23 **not already completed secondary school; and**
24 **(12) Provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a**
25 **community service program.**
- 26 **2. Beginning January 1, 2016, any parent or caretaker seeking assistance under the**
27 **temporary assistance for needy families program shall engage in work activities before**
28 **becoming eligible for benefits, unless such individual is otherwise exempt from the work**
29 **requirement.**
- 30 **3. If after an investigation the department determines that a person is not**
31 **cooperating with a work activity requirement under the temporary assistance for needy**
32 **families program, a representative of the department shall meet face-to-face with the**
33 **person to explain the potential sanction and the requirements to cure the sanction. After**
34 **the meeting, the person shall have six weeks to comply with the work activity requirement,**
35 **during which time no sanction of benefits shall occur. If the person does not comply with**
36 **the work activity requirement within that six-week period, the department shall**
37 **immediately apply a sanction terminating fifty percent of the amount of temporary**
38 **assistance benefits to or for the person and the person's family for a maximum of ten**
39 **weeks. To cure a sanction, the person shall perform work activities for at least a minimum**
40 **average of thirty hours per week for one month, as described in 45 CFR 261.31(d). If the**
41 **person does not cure the sanction, the case shall be closed.**
- 42 **4. To return to the temporary assistance for needy families benefits program after**
43 **having been sanctioned off the caseload under subsection 3 of this section, the person shall**
44 **complete work activities for a minimum average of thirty hours per week within one month**
45 **of the temporary assistance eligibility interview.**
- 46 **5. This section does not prohibit the state from providing child care or any other**
47 **related social or support services for a person who is eligible for financial assistance but**
48 **to whom that assistance is not paid because of the person's failure to cooperate with the**
49 **work activity.**
- 50 **6. In order to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families,**
51 **when a temporary assistance for needy families benefits recipient marries, the new spouse's**
52 **income and assets shall be disregarded for six consecutive months. This disregard shall be**
53 **a once-in-a-lifetime benefit for the recipient.**

54 7. The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section including
55 procedures to determine whether a person has cooperated with the requirements of the
56 work activity and procedures for notification of a caretaker relative, second parent, or
57 payee receiving the financial assistance on behalf of the person's family unit. Any rule or
58 portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
59 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
60 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
61 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general
62 assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove
63 and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
64 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be invalid and
65 void.

208.067. 1. Of the moneys received by the state under the federal temporary
2 assistance for needy families block grant during each fiscal year, the department of social
3 services shall, consistent with federal law and subject to appropriation, set aside a
4 minimum of:

5 (1) Two percent of such moneys to fund the alternatives to abortion services
6 program under section 188.325 and the alternatives to abortion public awareness program
7 under section 188.335. The department shall give preference to contracting with not-for-
8 profit entities that promote one or more of the four purposes established by Congress
9 under 42 U.S.C. Section 601 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
10 Reconciliation Act of 1996; and

11 (2) Two percent of such moneys to fund healthy marriage promotion activities and
12 activities promoting responsible fatherhood, as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 603 of the
13 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The
14 department shall give preference to contracting with not-for-profit entities that promote
15 one or more of the four purposes established by Congress under 42 U.S.C. Section 601 of
16 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

17 2. It is the intent of the general assembly that funding authorized under this section
18 shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other sources of revenue heretofore or hereafter
19 used for the purposes of this section.

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