

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0104

Public assistance programs.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Brown, Flitner,
Freeman and Paxton and Senator(s) Rothfuss,
Schuler and Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public assistance and social services;
2 amending program governance and restrictions; requiring
3 rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

4

5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 42-2-103(b) by creating a new
8 paragraph (xvii) and (e)(iv)(B) and 42-2-202(c)(iii), (iv)
9 and (d)(v) are amended to read:

10

11 **42-2-103. Provision of assistance and services;**
12 **duties of department; burial assistance; department of**
13 **health state supplemental security income program.**

14

1 (b) In carrying out subsection (a) of this section
2 and except as provided under the Wyoming Medical Assistance
3 and Services Act, the department shall:

4
5 (xvii) To the maximum extent possible, authorize
6 attendance in any post-secondary education program at the
7 University of Wyoming, Wyoming community college,
8 vocational school or training school as vocational
9 education training for purposes of meeting public
10 assistance and social services program requirements. The
11 department shall inform applicants of public assistance and
12 social service programs with a high school diploma or
13 equivalent of the opportunity to participate in a
14 post-secondary education program.

15
16 (e) In administering this section and in addition to
17 other requirements imposed under this chapter and the
18 Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act and federal
19 rule and regulation, the department shall by rule and
20 regulation:

21
22 (iv) Establish only one (1) earned income
23 disregard for determining assistance payable under W.S.

1 42-2-104 at six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per month for any
2 one (1) recipient. For married couples the earned income
3 disregard shall be one thousand two hundred dollars
4 (\$1,200.00) per month. The department may in addition
5 establish an additional individual earned income disregard
6 tailored to the individual person as part of that person's
7 self-sufficiency plan developed pursuant to paragraph (v)
8 of this subsection, provided:

9
10 (B) The amount disregarded shall not exceed
11 ~~six dollars and fifty cents (\$6.50)~~ seven dollars and
12 twenty-five cents (\$7.25) per hour except that in high cost
13 of living areas as defined by the department it shall not
14 exceed ~~seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50)~~ eight dollars
15 and twenty-five cents (\$8.25) per hour;

16
17 **42-2-202. Participation required; exemptions;**
18 **disqualification of benefits.**

19
20 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
21 title all nonexempt recipients under the personal
22 opportunities with employment responsibilities (POWER)
23 program in the state shall be required to work or perform

1 community service as defined by rules and regulations of
2 the department subject to coordination with the United
3 States department of health and human services if required.
4 Recipients may be exempted from the requirement under this
5 subsection if one (1) of the nonexempt recipients within
6 the assistance unit:

7

8 (iii) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(iv) of
9 this section, has a child who has not attained the age of
10 ~~three (3)~~ twelve (12) months;

11

12 (iv) Gives birth to a child after ten (10)
13 months as a recipient under the personal opportunities with
14 employment responsibilities (POWER) program. The recipient
15 under this paragraph shall be exempted from the
16 requirements under this section for a period of ~~three (3)~~
17 twelve (12) months after the child is born, unless the
18 parent is a minor child in which case the recipient shall
19 be required to attend school in accordance with paragraph
20 (v) of this subsection;

21

22 (d) Benefits and eligibility requirements under the
23 personal opportunities with employment responsibilities

1 (POWER) program shall be modified for assistance units
2 under subsection (c) of this section as follows:

3

4 (v) Excluding allowance for personal motor
5 vehicles as specified under W.S. 42-2-109(b), the amount of
6 assets an assistance unit may own shall be not greater than
7 ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00)~~ ten thousand dollars
8 (\$10,000.00).

9

10 **Section 2.** By July 1, 2020, the department of family
11 services shall seek approval of any state plan amendments
12 necessary as a result of changes made by section 1 of this
13 act and promulgate any necessary rules to effectuate the
14 amendments made by section 1 of this act.

15

16 **Section 3.**

17

18 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
19 section, this act is effective July 1, 2020.

20

21 (b) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are effective
22 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a

1 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of
2 the Wyoming Constitution.

3

4

(END)