

CHAPTER 353

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 07-225

BY SENATOR(S) Sandoval, Boyd, and Groff;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Riesberg, Frangas, Kefalas, Labuda, and Stafford.

AN ACT

CONCERNING STRATEGIES INCLUDING THE EARNINGS INCOME DISREGARD FOR INCREASING THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATES FOR PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Part 7 of article 2 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

26-2-714.7. Work participation rates - increases - county strategies - report - repeal. (1) EACH COUNTY OR GROUP OF COUNTIES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 26-2-714.5. THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE COUNTIES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

(a) USING COUNTY FUNDS THAT ARE NOT CLAIMED AS MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT FOR TANF TO PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR TWO-PARENT FAMILIES AND CATEGORIES OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM THE STATE'S WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS OR WHO HAVE GOOD CAUSE REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS;

(b) DEVELOPING AN INTAKE DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR CONSECUTIVE MONTHS. THE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES SHALL INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ENHANCED ASSESSMENT AND CASE MANAGED JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES AND OTHER SUPPORTS AS INDICATED BY THE ASSESSMENT;

(c) DEVELOPING SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO WORK MORE ACTIVELY WITH TARGET POPULATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PARTICIPANTS WITH ZERO HOURS OF

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

WORK PARTICIPATION, PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE SOME HOURS OF WORK PARTICIPATION BUT NOT ENOUGH TO COUNT TOWARD MEETING THE FEDERAL WORK PARTICIPATION RATE, AND PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES;

(d) ASSIGNING A PARTICIPANT INTO WORK ACTIVITIES THAT COUNT TOWARD THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIREMENTS IF ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT BETTER SUITED TO ASSIST THE PARTICIPANT TO ENTER, RE-ENTER, OR MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND MOVE TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY;

(e) DEVELOPING A MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS;

(f) PROVIDING, TO THE FAMILY OF A PARTICIPANT WHO IS WORKING A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF HOURS TO MEET THE APPLICABLE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE REQUIREMENT, POST-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES THROUGH DIVERSION PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY DURING ITS TRANSITION FROM WELFARE TO WORK AND TO INCREASE JOB RETENTION AND EARNINGS GAINS; AND

(g) USING THE EXISTING STATE EARNINGS DISREGARD.

(2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTIES TO ASSIST THEM IN UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO INCREASE THEIR WORK PARTICIPATION RATES AND TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES UNDER THE WORKS PROGRAM.

(3) (a) EACH COUNTY OR GROUP OF COUNTIES SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT A REPORT CONCERNING THE STRATEGIES THE COUNTY OR GROUP HAS UNDERTAKEN TO INCREASE ITS WORK PARTICIPATION RATES AND WHETHER THE COUNTY OR GROUP EXPECTS TO MEET THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE.

(b) BY DECEMBER 31, 2007, AND BY DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING THE STRATEGIES EMPLOYED AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNTIES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATES AND A PROJECTION AS TO WHETHER THE STATE WILL MEET THE PROJECTED FEDERAL WORK PARTICIPATION RATES IN THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

(4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 31, 2007