

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0175

TANF increase.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Warren and Berger and
Senator(s) Boggs and Massie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the personal opportunities with
2 employment responsibilities program; amending eligibility
3 requirements as specified; increasing assistance levels and
4 allowing for annual adjustments; and providing for an
5 effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 42-2-102(a)(ix), 42-2-103(e)(iii) and
10 42-2-109(a)(ii)(A) through (C), (iii) and (b) are amended
11 to read:

12

13 **42-2-102. Definitions.**

14

15 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, as
16 used in this article:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

(ix) "Approved educational program" means any program at the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college leading to a baccalaureate, ~~or~~ associate degree, or ~~a vocational program~~ certificate at any such school or a vocational program approved by the department, or other accredited educational program within Wyoming leading to a baccalaureate, ~~or~~ associate degree or nationally recognized certification or license. The department, may, by rule and regulation specify particular courses of study or majors that do not generally lead to employment and are not approved educational programs.

42-2-103. Provision of assistance and services; duties of department; burial assistance; state supplemental security income program.

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

1 (iii) Limit assistance payable under W.S.
 2 42-2-104 for the year 2005 as follows: ~~provided no~~
 3 ~~assistance unit shall at any time subsequent to initial~~
 4 ~~qualification for assistance receive any increase based~~
 5 ~~upon an increase in the number of persons in the assistance~~
 6 ~~unit after ten (10) months following initial qualification~~
 7 ~~for assistance:~~

8			
9	Family Size	<u>Cumulative Inflation</u>	Maximum POWER
10		<u>Factor</u>	Payment
11			
12	1	<u>1.244</u>	\$195 <u>243</u>
13			
14	2	<u>1.244</u>	320 <u>398</u>
15			
16	3	<u>1.244</u>	340 <u>423</u>
17			
18	4	<u>1.244</u>	340 <u>423</u>
19			
20	5	<u>1.244</u>	360 <u>448</u>
21			
22	6	<u>1.244</u>	360 <u>448</u>
23			
24	7 and above	<u>1.244</u>	380 <u>473</u>

25

The Maximum payment level shall be adjusted annually after 2005 to reflect the cumulative inflation factor.

42-2-109. Review of assistance and services; termination or modification; notice to department of change in resources.

(a) Public assistance and social services provided under this article shall be reviewed at least once each year, except for recipients enrolled in an approved educational program which shall be reviewed once every six (6) months. An approved educational program under this section shall be limited to educational courses not to exceed the baccalaureate degree level. After review, the department may continue, modify or terminate public assistance and social services in accordance with the circumstances of the recipient and the provisions of this article. Review of recipients in an approved educational program pursuant to this subsection shall require that recipients:

(ii) Be enrolled as a full-time student, provided:

1 (A) To qualify as a full-time student under
2 this paragraph, the student shall be enrolled for a minimum
3 of twelve (12) credit hours per semester or activities that
4 equal twelve (12) credit hours as defined by the
5 institution and complete ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) or
6 more credit hours per year or activities that equal twenty-
7 four (24) credit hours per year as defined by the
8 institution in an approved educational program;

9
10 (B) A full-time student qualifying under
11 this paragraph is exempt from any work or community service
12 requirement under this article, except as provided in
13 ~~paragraphs~~ paragraph (iii) ~~and (iv)~~ of this subsection;

14
15 (C) To qualify under this paragraph, the
16 full-time student ~~has been a resident of the state for not~~
17 ~~less than two (2) years prior to starting the educational~~
18 ~~program or is a graduate of a Wyoming high school~~ shall be
19 a Wyoming resident in accordance with guidelines and
20 criteria prescribed by rule and regulation of the
21 department.

22
23 (iii) ~~To~~ During the summer, work at least
24 thirty-two (32) hours per week for at least ten (10) ~~of the~~

1 ~~sixteen (16) weeks prior to starting the educational~~
2 ~~program. This requirement does not apply to persons who~~
3 ~~have begun their educational program before the effective~~
4 ~~date of this act~~ or successfully complete six (6) credit
5 hours. The department may waive this requirement for good
6 cause;

7
8 (b) Upon gaining possession of any property, income
9 or other resources after receiving any public assistance
10 and social services under this article, a recipient shall
11 immediately notify the department as he becomes aware of
12 the change in circumstances. The amount of public
13 assistance and social services provided to the recipient
14 shall be accordingly terminated or modified pursuant to
15 rule and regulation of the department. Effective July 1,
16 1996, the department shall allow the exclusion of one (1)
17 duly registered and licensed motor vehicle with a market
18 value of less than ~~twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00)~~
19 fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), from personal
20 resources in determining eligibility for any household
21 under the personal opportunities with employment
22 responsibilities (POWER) and food stamp programs. Married
23 couples shall be allowed a second duly registered and
24 licensed motor vehicle provided the aggregate value of both

1 vehicles does not exceed ~~twelve thousand dollars~~
2 ~~(\$12,000.00)~~ fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

3

4 **Section 2.** W.S. 42-2-109(a)(iv) is repealed.

5

6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

10

11 (END)