

## AMENDMENT

Hatch Amendment #1 to the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE)

Short Title: Pre-Sanction Reviews

Description of Amendment: Prior to the imposition of a Sanction the State shall, to the extent determined appropriate by the state, review the Self-Sufficiency Plan and make a good faith effort to consult with the family.

Contact Name and Phone Number: Jace Johnson (202) 224-7778.

## AMENDMENT

Hatch Amendment #2 to the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE)

Short Title: Adding an additional 3 months of Short-Term Activities

Description of Amendment: Expand the 3 month family exclusion from Work Participation Requirements to allow for an additional 3 months of exclusion during the 24 consecutive months as long as the following requirements are met during the last 3 months of such 6 month period. The recipient is participating in rehabilitative services, such as adult basic education, participation in a program designed to increase proficiency in the English language, or, in the case of an individual determined by a qualified medical, mental health, or social services professional as having a physical or mental disability, substance abuse problem, or other problem that requires rehabilitative services, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or other rehabilitative services, provided that the provision of such services is a requirement of the individual's individual responsibility plan AND such services are combined with work or job-readiness activities. During the additional 3 months, such services must be combined with work or job-readiness activities in order for the family exclusion from Work Participation Requirements to apply.

Contact Name and Phone Number: Jace Johnson (202) 224-7778.

## AMENDMENT

Hatch Amendment #3 to the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE)

Short Title: Universal Engagement Training

Description of Amendment: Increase the 15% administrative expense cap to 25% for each of the fiscal years 2003 to 2007 to carry out any or all of the following activities: 1) To provide training for supervisory and non-supervisory staff of the State or local agency with responsibility for the administration of the State program funded under this part, including (but not limited to) training that is designed to improve the ability of such staff to identify barriers to employment and indicators of child well-being, and to improve the understanding of such staff of program requirements and services funded under this part and of nondiscrimination and employment laws for families receiving assistance under the State program. 2) To improve the communication of information concerning program requirements to recipients of, and applicants for, assistance, including services related to communicating such information to families with a primary language other than English. 3) To improve the quality of the agency workforce. 4) To improve the coordination of support programs for low-income families. 5) To conduct outreach to promote the enrollment of eligible families in such programs. 6) To establish advisory review panels to advise States with respect to improving the State's policies and procedures for assisting individuals under the State universal engagement program who have barriers to work in accordance with the requirements of this bill.

Contact Name and Phone Number: Jace Johnson (202) 224-7778.

**Conrad Amendment #1 to Personal Responsibility and Individuals Development for Everyone (PRIDE)**

Short Title: Revision of Provision that Allows Increased Flexibility for TANF Recipients who are Caregivers to Family Members with Disabilities

Description of Amendment: This amendment would *strike* the following lines from pg. 13 of the markup document:

“A single parent who provides continuous care for a child or dependent with a physical or mental impairment may receive credit as engaged in work under certain conditions. The qualifying conditions include: the state must determine that the child or dependent has an impairment that requires he/she have substantial continuous care, that the parent is the only reasonable provider of the care, that the recipient is in compliance with her self-sufficiency plan. The state must conduct regular periodic evaluations of the recipient’s family and regularly update her self-sufficiency plan. Further, the state TANF plan must set forth criteria for deeming the single parent providing care for a disabled child or dependent to be meeting all or part of the family’s work requirements.”

and *replace* it with (changes are underlined):

“A single recipient caretaker who provides substantial ongoing care for a child or adult dependent for care, including a spouse, with a physical or mental impairment may receive credit as engaged in work under certain conditions. The qualifying conditions include: the state must determine that the child or adult dependent for care, including a spouse, has an impairment that requires he/she have substantial ongoing care, that the single recipient caretaker is the most appropriate means of the care, and in the month for which these hours shall count as work that the recipient is in compliance with her self-sufficiency plan. The state must determine that the child or adult dependent for care has been verified through a medically acceptable clinical or diagnostic technique as having a significant physical or mental impairment or combinations of impairments. The state must conduct regular periodic evaluations of the recipient’s family and regularly update her self-sufficiency plan. Further, the state TANF plan must set forth criteria for deeming the single recipient caretaker providing care for a disabled child or adult dependent for care to be meeting all or part of the family’s work requirements.”

Contact Name and Phone Number: Neleen Eisinger, 4-7966

## LINCOLN AMENDMENT #1

Lincoln Amendment #1 to Substitute to H.R. 4

Short Title: Single Parents Have Special Needs

Description of Amendment: Maintain current law provision that allows single parents of children under age 6 to fully count toward participation rates by participating for 20 hours a week.

Under current law, single parents of children under six count toward participation rates by participating for 20 hours a week. The Chairman's mark would require that such families would need to participate for 24 hours a week in order to fully count, and would count as .675 participants when participating for 20-23 hours a week. The amendment would retain current law, in which such families can fully count as participants when engaged for 20 hours a week.

Contacts: Lori Neal 4-4737 and Elizabeth MacDonald 4-4730

**KERRY AMENDMENT # 1**

Cosponsor: Bingaman

**Pre-Sanction Reviews**

This amendment requires the state agency to:

- (1) review the individual responsibility plan prior to imposing a sanction against the adult recipient or the family for failure to comply with a requirement of the plan or the State program funded under this part; and
- (2) make a good faith effort (as defined by the State) to consult with the family as part of such review.

Staff Contact: Heather Mizeur, 4-4030 or Katie Joyce, 4-9737

## **KERRY AMENDMENT #2**

Cosponsor: Bingaman

### **Enhancement of Child Care Sanction Protection**

This amendment would set forth standards for what is considered adequate childcare:

- (1) Child care is not within reasonable distance if it requires the travel of more than 30 minutes each way between home and child care or more than 60 minutes each way from home to child care to work place.
- (2) Child care is not affordable if it requires payment of more than 10% of the recipient's earned annual gross income.
- (3) Child care is not safe if it does not comply with applicable health and safety requirements as certified by the State in its child care plan.
- (4) Child care is not appropriate if it does not meet state licensing standards, if it does not serve children of the recipient child's age, if it does not serve children with the recipient child's special needs, or if it does not meet the developmental needs of the child.

In addition, it sets guidelines for sanctioning parents who cannot find childcare:

- (1) A State shall not impose a sanction or penalty against an individual under the State program on the basis of noncompliance by an individual or family where lack of meaningful access to child care is a significant contributing factor in the noncompliance; and
- (2) Prior to imposing a sanction, if the individual is a custodial parent or caretaker relative, the State shall specifically consider whether the individual lacks access to safe, appropriate, affordable, quality child care, and where a lack of access to child care is identified, provide information regarding child care assistance for which the individual may be eligible, and modify or waive program requirements as necessary.
- (3) This includes teenage mothers who can not attend school because of a lack of adequate childcare.

Staff Contact: Heather Mizeur, 4-4030 or Katie Joyce, 4-9737

## **Bingaman Amendment # 6 to the PRIDE Act**

**Cosponsors:** Sen. Baucus

**Short Title:** Education Works Amendment

### **Description of Amendment:**

The amendment expands education and training opportunities for TANF recipients by:

- Clarifying that states have the flexibility to allow participation in postsecondary education, vocational English as a Second Language, and basic adult education programs as part of vocational educational training.
- Expanding the time period that states could allow individuals to participate in vocational educational training to 24 months while receiving TANF benefits.
- Giving states the flexibility to provide child care and transportation supports to individuals participating in a full-time education program that will lead to work and long-term independence, but not count those supports as assistance under TANF.

The current welfare law discourages states from allowing welfare recipients to participate in education and training programs. Specifically, the law limits the extent to which education activities can count toward federal work participation requirements, effectively restricting how long individuals can participate in education and training and capping how many individuals can receive these services. This amendment provides states greater flexibility to allow individuals to participate in educational activities when appropriate to attain the skills needed to secure long-term employment.

**Staff Contact:** Carmel Martin, 4-0163 or Cathy Cozzarelli, 4-0172

Committee on Finance  
September 10, 2003

Snowe Amendment #1

(cosponsored by: Bingaman, Baucus, Rockefeller, and Jeffords)

Current Law:

Since 1996, TANF dollars can only be spent on benefits for people who are complying with the federally mandated work requirements and who have not hit the federal benefits time limit of 60 months (5 years). Under current law, only one year of vocational education is permitted for a limited percentage of a state's welfare caseload.

The Amendment:

The amendment would allow those states that choose to, to count post secondary and vocational education as an "approved work activity" which then means that those people who are participating in post-secondary education would be eligible for cash assistance, child care subsidies, transportation subsidies, etc., paid for with federal TANF dollars.

This amendment would allow those who are participating in post-secondary or vocational education to count towards the state's work requirements and participation rates. Participation in these educational programs is capped at 10 percent of a state's caseload. The amendment expressly prohibits the use of TANF dollars to pay for tuition.

*Participation Requirements*

Participants in such state programs would be counted as fully or partially participating if:

- a. they are engaged in educational or related activities (including work) authorized under this program for the number of hours required under the Chairman's mark, OR
- b. they are engaged in direct work activities (including paid employment, work study, practicums, internships, clinical placements, laboratory or field work, or any other work activities as defined by the state department that will enhance the enrollees' employability in the enrollees' field) for an average of not less than 6 hours per week in the 1st year; 8 hours per week in the 2nd year; 10 hours per week in the 3rd year; and 12 hours per week in the 4th year of their educational program in addition to complying with the full-time educational participation requirements of this program (with certain good cause exceptions)

**Staff Contact:**

Carolyn Holmes, 4-8665

## Frist Amendment #1

### *Short Title:*

To provide for extra credit for hours above the standard.

### *Description of Amendment:*

State could claim extra credit towards their participation rate for hours above the standard. Extra credit would be assigned as follows:

34 hours = 1.0

35 - 37 hours = 1.05

38 - 40 hours = 1.08

### *Rationale for Amendment*

The amendment reflects the extra credit which the House bill would allow for hours above the standard.

States which take steps to move adult welfare recipients toward full-time work should receive credit for doing so.

## AMENDMENT

Santorum Amendment #1 to the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone Act

Short Title: State Flexibility Regarding Public Benefits for Certain Felons

Description of Amendment: This amendment would repeal the federal ban on TANF benefits and food stamps for convicted drug felons and leave with states the option to impose a complete or partial ban on these benefits, or no ban at all. It would not affect states that opted out of the 1996 ban or that modified the ban. In addition, states would be given the option to ban TANF benefits or food stamps in part or in full for felons convicted of murder or rape; any person convicted of murder who was acting in self-defense in the case of domestic violence could not be denied benefits under this provision. Furthermore, this amendment would deny Social Security Old Age Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) benefits to fugitive felons and would require the Social Security Administration (SSA) to disclose information about the fugitives to law enforcement officers. Also, public housing agencies and owners of multifamily housing would be required to institute eviction procedures to terminate the tenancy of tenants who are fugitive felons. Current law already makes fugitive felon status grounds for eviction.

Contact Name and Phone Number: Ashley Horning (228-3400)

## Jeffords Amendment #1 to the PRIDE Act

Short Title: Pathways to Independence Act of 2003

### Description of Amendment:

- If a state determines that a TANF recipient would benefit from rehabilitative services, then the person can be placed in such services for three months and such services will be counted as a core work activity for purposes of a state's participation rates.
- The state can extend this period for another three months, provided that for a portion of the time, as determined appropriate by the state, the person is engaged in other work-related activity as well.

During both of these periods, the person shall be deemed to be meeting the work requirement and the state will receive full credit for the person's activities.

- If, after this six month period, the state determines that the recipient is unable to meet the full work participation requirement due to a disability or substance abuse problem, then the state may count that recipient toward the participation requirements, and:
  - receive full credit if:
    - the recipient participates for the number of hours required for full credit in activities consisting of:
    - at least one-half in core work activities; and
    - activities that meet the work participation requirements but are not considered core activities; and/or
    - other barrier removal activities;
  - receive partial credit if:
    - the recipient participates in less than the total number of hours needed for full credit, then the state will receive the amount of partial credit it would receive for a person in work activities for the same number of hours, so long as the person identified as needing rehab services has total activities equal to the level of partial credit, consisting of:
    - at least half of the number of hours of core work activities otherwise required for the state to receive that level of partial credit; and
    - activities that meet the work participation requirements but are not considered core activities; and/or
    - other barrier removal activities.

Definition of Disability: The state will create a definition of "disability" that is comparable to the definition in the vocational rehabilitation statute.

Staff Contact and Phone #: Justin King; 224-5141

Jeffords Amendment #3 to the PRIDE Act (Also offered on behalf of Senator Bingaman and Senator Baucus)

Short Title: Vocational Education and Training Extension

Description of Amendment:

The bill should allow up to 24 months of vocational educational and training to be counted as a work activity under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

Staff Contact and Phone #: Justin King; 224-5141

## Jeffords Amendment #6 to the PRIDE Act

Short title: 3+3 Rehabilitative Services

### Amendment Description:

Expand the 3 month family exclusion from Work Participation Requirements to allow for an additional 3 months of exclusion during the 24 consecutive months as long as the following requirements are met during the last 3 months of such 6 month period. The recipient is participating in rehabilitative services, such as adult basic education, participation in a program designed to increase proficiency in the English language, or, in the case of an individual determined by a qualified medical, mental health, or social services professional as having a physical or mental disability, substance abuse problem, or other problem that requires rehabilitative services, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, or other rehabilitative services, provided that the provision of such services is a requirement of the individual's individual responsibility plan AND such services are combined with work or job-readiness activities at levels determined by the state.