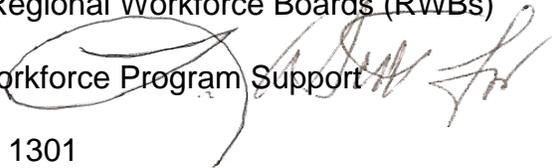




Date of Issue: September 4, 2007
Office of Issue: AWI-07-06
Reference: House Bill 1301, Chapter No. 2007-197

STATE OF FLORIDA
AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION

AWI Communiqué

DATE: August 30, 2007
TO: Workforce Florida, Inc. and Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs)
FROM: J. Wyatt Pope, Director of Workforce Program Support 
SUBJECT: Implementation of House Bill 1301

PURPOSE:

To inform Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) of the changes in the Welfare Transition (WT) work activity definitions in [section 445.024, Florida Statutes](#).

REFERENCE:

House Bill 1301, Chapter No. [2007-197](#)

BACKGROUND:

Federal regulations issued in June 2006 define the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work activities. See 45 C.F.R. § 261.2; 45 C.F.R. §§ 261.30-33. To align the Florida Statutes with these federal regulations, House Bill 1301 proposed to amend section 445.024, F.S. House Bill 1301 was signed into law by Governor Charlie Christ on June 19, 2007. Basic changes include the following:

- On-the-job training is now an independent activity category as indicated in federal regulations;
- Participants employed by employers receiving tax subsidies are considered to be engaged in unsubsidized employment;
- Staff must now use the following calculation to determine the maximum number of hours a participant may be assigned to work experience or community service in a month: take the sum of TANF funded cash assistance and food stamps and divide it by the minimum wage (the higher of the State or federal minimum wage); and
- Credit is no longer granted for unsupervised homework under basic education activities for participants without a high school diploma or its equivalency.

The changes also offer increased flexibility for several of the countable work activities previously allowed under Florida Statutes.

- Participants assigned to work experience may be engaged in a worksite with a for-profit entity or a not-for-profit entity. The RWB must ensure the employer is informed of and consents to follow displacement laws and local operating procedures established by the RWB;
- Job search and job readiness assistance may include hours where a participant is engaged in rehabilitation and counseling/therapy activities to resolve or manage mental health or substance abuse issues;
- Participants, regardless of age, that do not have a high school diploma or an equivalent certificate may be enrolled in and given credit for hours completed under “education directly related to employment.” This option was previously restricted to participants 19 and younger; and
- Participants assigned to a work experience worksite are not **required** to engage in a classroom educational program.

AUTHORITY:

[Florida Statutes Chapter 445](#) and House Bill 1301, Chapter No. [2007-197](#)

ACTION REQUIRED:

The RWB should review the work activities implemented by the WT program provider to ensure they conform to both federal and State laws.