

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Morrisette
Nays:	Verger
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies circumstances that constitute public assistance overpayment. Authorizes Department of Human Services (DHS) to collect overpayments and begin garnishment proceedings. Defines overpayment to include public assistance designated for a specific purpose and spent on an expense not approved and not considered a basic requirement under current law; “misappropriated” checks; and, failure to reimburse compensation received from another source.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Situations in which overpayments occur
- DHS estimates of amount of overpayments made annually
- Minimum threshold for which DHS would attempt to recover funds
- Need to change system and eliminate inefficiencies

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies reference to “public assistance” as funds designated by DHS for a specific purpose.

BACKGROUND: Overpayment recovery occurs when DHS has paid too much to clients or vendors of non-eligible cash, medical, food stamp or vendor payments. Current statutes specify that no individual receive, either for their own benefit or the benefit of another, any public assistance to which the individual or other person is not entitled to under state law. House Bill 2191 A will allow DHS to garnish property, according to statute, of the person who was overpaid.