

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 6 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Cowan, Gilliam, Kotek, Maurer, Olson, Tomei

Nays: 0

Exc.: Gelser

Prepared By: Andy Smith, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/7, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) to meet federal requirements under Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Describes work activities for job opportunity and basic skills program. Requires screening, assessment and case planning. Creates special provisions for participants with disabilities. Extends program exemption to six months for parent of newborn. Authorizes sanctions for failing to comply with case plan in program. Changes time limit for receipt of temporary assistance for needy families to 60-month lifetime limit. Requires Department of Human Services to allow pass-through of portion of child support payments. Adds TANF recipients to list of individuals rebuttably presumed to be unable to pay child support. Authorizes department to recover adult portion of TANF from retroactive Supplemental Security Income payments.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Employment barriers and the need for improved assessment tools
- Individuals with disabilities who are potentially eligible for Supplemental Security Income
- Time limits and caps on eligibility and return to work activities
- Child support, case management best practices and two-parent program
- Changes since last legislative update of TANF was in 1994
- Financial requirements of Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2006 and TANF oversight committee recommendations
- Post-TANF programs and gaps in health care coverage for post-TANF families

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Reinstates deprivation as an eligibility factor. Changes time child is allowed to spend with absent parent from 12 hours to 30 hours per week. Allows "Parents as Scholars" program to operate without federal matching funds. Defines "needy" and "non needy caretaker relative." Strengthen assessments and defines suitable work activities. Exempts new mothers from participation for six months per child and 12 months per lifetime. Requires new mothers to participate in parenting class. Establishes that DHS shall disregard child-support payment of \$50 per child up to \$200 per family when counting income. Establishes policy and process for sanctions and reporting of outcomes of sanctions. Clarifies hardships that exempt participants from time-limits. Establishes process for terminating aid to post-TANF recipient who cease to comply with participation. Clarifies name of the State Family SSI/SSDI program. Clarifies that DHS may recover adult portion of grant, that participation is voluntary, and the requirements for participation in job activities. Establishes that participants are eligible for Transitional Medical Assistance.

BACKGROUND: The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides cash assistance to low-income families with children while they strive to become self-sufficient. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of families living in poverty through employment and community resources. To qualify for TANF, families must have very few assets and little or no income. The current maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$503. Many families in the TANF program must participate in the JOBS employment and training program, which helps them prepare for and find work. They may also receive help with problems around housing, child care, alcohol or drug abuse, domestic-violence and other factors that affect family stability. In addition, the Department of Human Services (DHS) helps clients obtain child support from absent parents. The TANF program is administered by the children, Adults and Families Division within DHS. Services to clients are provided through local DHS offices across the state.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.