

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****House Committee On Human Services and Housing****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/03/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.**Meeting Dates:** 03/18, 04/03**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Gallegos, Keny-Guyer, Piluso, Stark, Taylor

Nays: 3 - Buehler, Hayden, Parrish

**Prepared By:** Robyn Johnson, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish general assistance pilot project. Requires DHS conduct outreach, convene advisory group, and contract outside evaluation. Compels report to Legislature by September 20, 2020. Prohibits state from recovering any amount from estate, surviving spouse, property or interest of recipient of general assistance except in specified instances. Appropriates funds to DHS. Sunsets January 2, 2019.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Social Security Disability Insurance eligibility
- Housing First Model
- Intersection of disability and homelessness

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Requires DHS conduct outreach, convene advisory group, and contract outside evaluation. Compels report Legislature by September 20, 2020. Prohibits state from recovering any amount from estate, surviving spouse, property or interest of recipient of general assistance except in specified instances.

**BACKGROUND:**

Federal disability benefits are available, but are known to have a rigorous and lengthy application process. People often wait an average of one to two years for federal disability benefits applications to be approved. Nationally only 30 percent of first-time applicants are approved.

House Bill 2194-A establishes a pilot program to serve 200 adults with disability who are without housing and on Medicaid. Participants will be provided housing support, case management, and cash assistance during the application and approval process for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). When they are accepted on to SSDI, the state can recuperate costs from federal back payment.