

Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1176

Introduced by

Representatives Hogan, Hawken, Maragos

Senators J. Lee, Heckaman, Axness

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 14-06.1-09, subsection 3 of
2 section 50-01.2-00.1, section 50-01.2-03, subsection 6 of section 50-06-01.4, subsection 17 of
3 section 50-06-05.1, section 50-09-29, and subsection 3 of section 54-06-20 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the
5 temporary assistance for needy families program.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 14-06.1-09 of the North Dakota
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 3. Information about other assistance programs, including concrete information and
10 assistance with supplemental security income, social security, veterans administration
11 benefits, welfare, ~~food stamps~~the supplemental nutrition assistance program, housing,
12 unemployment insurance, medical assistance, and educational financial assistance.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 50-01.2-00.1 of the North Dakota
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 3. "Locally administered economic assistance programs" means those primary economic
16 assistance programs that need to be accessible to all citizens of the state through a
17 county social service office and include:
18 a. Temporary assistance for needy families;
19 b. Employment and training programs;
20 c. Child care assistance programs;
21 d. Medical assistance, including early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment;
22 e. ~~Food stamp~~Supplemental nutrition assistance programs, including employment
23 and training programs;
24 f. Refugee assistance programs;

- 1 g. Basic care services;
- 2 h. Energy assistance programs; and
- 3 i. Information and referral.

4 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-01.2-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-01.2-03. Duties of county social service board.**

7 The county social service board of each county in this state shall:

- 8 1. Supervise and direct all human service activities conducted by the county including
9 county general assistance or other public assistance.
- 10 2. Supervise and administer, under the direction and supervision of the department of
11 human services, human services in the county which are financed in whole or in part
12 with funds allocated or distributed by the department of human services.
- 13 3. Aid and assist in every reasonable way to efficiently coordinate and conduct human
14 service activities within the county by private as well as public organizations.
- 15 4. Subject to subsection 17 of section 50-06-05.1, administer the ~~food-~~
16 stamp supplemental nutrition assistance program in the county under the direction and
17 supervision of the department of human services in conformity with the Food Stamp
18 Act of 1964, as amended, and enter into an agreement for administering the ~~food-~~
19 stamp supplemental nutrition assistance program with the department of human
20 services.
- 21 5. Subject to subsection 19 of section 50-06-05.1, administer the energy assistance
22 program in the county under the direction and supervision of the department of human
23 services and to enter into an agreement for administering the energy assistance
24 program with the department of human services.
- 25 6. Charge and collect fees and expenses for services provided by its staff in accordance
26 with policies and fee schedules adopted by the department of human services.
- 27 7. Supervise and administer designated child welfare services under the direction and
28 supervision of the department of human services. Through established procedures the
29 department of human services may release the county social service board of this duty
30 or the county social service board may request to be released from this duty by the
31 department of human services. If a county is released from the county's duty to

1 supervise and administer designated child welfare services under this subsection, the
2 county retains its financial responsibility for providing those services unless otherwise
3 negotiated and approved by the department.

4 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 6 of section 50-06-01.4 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 6 6. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance for
7 needy families, ~~food stamps~~the supplemental nutrition assistance program, fuel
8 assistance, child support enforcement, refugee assistance, work experience, work
9 incentive, and quality control.

10 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 17 of section 50-06-05.1 of the North Dakota
11 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 12 17. To act as the official agency of the state in the administration of the ~~food-~~
13 ~~stamps~~supplemental nutrition assistance program and to direct and supervise county
14 administration of that program. Provided, however, that the department with the
15 consent of the budget section of the legislative management may terminate the
16 program if the rate of federal financial participation in administrative costs provided
17 under Public Law 93-347 is decreased or limited, or if the state or counties become
18 financially responsible for all or a portion of the coupon bonus payments under the
19 Food Stamp Act. Unless at least five years has elapsed since the most recent plea of
20 guilt or conviction, the department shall deny assistance under the supplemental
21 nutrition assistance program to any individual who has plead guilty to or been
22 convicted of a felony offense that has as an element the possession, use, or
23 distribution of a controlled substance as defined in section 201(6) of the Controlled
24 Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802(6)].

25 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **50-09-29. Requirements for administration of temporary assistance for needy**
28 **families.**

- 29 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, and 4, the department of human services, in
30 its administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program, shall:

- 1 a. Provide assistance to otherwise eligible women in the third trimester of a
- 2 pregnancy;
- 3 b. Except as provided in subdivision c, afford eligible households benefits for no
- 4 more than sixty months;
- 5 c. Exempt eligible households from the requirements of subdivision b due to mental
- 6 or physical disability of a parent or child, mental or physical incapacity of a
- 7 parent, or other hardship including a parent subject to domestic violence as
- 8 defined in section 14-07.1-01;
- 9 d. Unless an exemption, exclusion, or disregard is required by law, count income
- 10 and assets whenever actually available;
- 11 e. Except as provided in subdivision j, and as required to allow the state to receive
- 12 funds from the federal government under title IV-A, provide no benefits to
- 13 noncitizen immigrants who arrive in the United States after August 21, 1996;
- 14 f. Limit eligibility to households with total available assets, not otherwise exempted
- 15 or excluded, of a value established by the department not to exceed five
- 16 thousand dollars for a one-person household and eight thousand dollars for a
- 17 household of two or more;
- 18 g. Exclude one motor vehicle of any value in determining eligibility;
- 19 h. Require work activities for all household members not specifically exempted by
- 20 the department of human services for reasons such as mental or physical
- 21 disability of a parent or child or mental or physical incapacity of a parent;
- 22 i. Establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of
- 23 out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish numerical goals for reducing the
- 24 illegitimacy rate for the state for periods through calendar year 2005;
- 25 j. To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the federal
- 26 government under title IV-A, provide benefits to otherwise eligible noncitizens
- 27 who are lawfully present in the United States;
- 28 k. Establish and enforce standards against program fraud and abuse;
- 29 l. Provide employment placement programs;
- 30 m. Consider implementing an electronic fund transfer system;

- n. Exempt from assets and income the savings and proportionate matching funds in individual development accounts;
- o. Determine the unemployment rate of adults living in a county that includes Indian reservation lands and a significant population of Indian individuals by using unemployment data provided by job service North Dakota;
- p. When appropriate, require household members to complete high school;
- q. To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the federal government under title IV-A, exempt single parents from required work activities;
- r. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a household member fails to cooperate with work requirements;
- s. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a household member fails, without good cause, to cooperate with child support activities;
- t. Deny assistance with respect to a minor child absent from the household for more than one calendar month, except as specifically provided by the state agency for absences;
- u. Require each household to participate in developing an individual responsibility plan and provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if adult or minor household members age sixteen or older fail to cooperate in developing an individual responsibility plan;
- v. Provide pre-pregnancy family planning services that are to be incorporated into the temporary assistance for needy families program assessment;
- w. Except in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, not increase the assistance amount to recognize the increase in household size when a child is born to a household member who was a recipient of assistance under this chapter during the probable month of the child's conception;
- x. Disregard earned income as an incentive allowance for no more than twelve months; ~~and~~
- y. Consider, and if determined appropriate, authorize demonstration projects in defined areas which may provide benefits and services that are not identical to benefits and services provided elsewhere; and

z. Unless at least five years has elapsed since the most recent plea of guilt or conviction, deny assistance to any individual who has plead guilty to or been convicted of a felony offense for an act that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance as defined in section 201(6) of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 802(6)].

2. If the secretary of the United States department of health and human services determines that funds otherwise available for the temporary assistance for needy families program in this state must be reduced or eliminated should the department of human services administer the program in accordance with any provision of subsection 1, the department of human services shall administer the program in a manner that avoids the reduction or loss.

3. If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the legislative management, that there is insufficient worker opportunity, due to increases in the unemployment rate, to participate in work activities, the department may administer the temporary assistance for needy families program in a manner different than provided in subsection 1.

4. If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the legislative management, that administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program, in the manner provided by subsection 1, causes otherwise eligible individuals to become a charge upon the counties under chapter 50-01, the department may administer the program in a manner that avoids that result.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 54-06-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. Subject to the limitations in this section, funds distributed under subsection 1 may be used to provide legal services to persons unable to afford private counsel in the following types of cases:

- a. Public benefits, including temporary assistance to needy families, unemployment compensation, general assistance, ~~food stamp~~the supplemental nutrition assistance program, supplemental security income, or social security disability income;
- b. Medical assistance;

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- 1 c. Family law matters;
- 2 d. Housing;
- 3 e. Consumer issues; and
- 4 f. Elder law.