

SENATE BILL NO. 2155

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-09-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the definition of work activity for purposes of the temporary assistance
3 for needy families program; and to amend and reenact subdivision m of subsection 2 of section
4 14-08.1-05.1 and section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to work and the
5 requirements for the administration of temporary assistance for needy families.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision m of subsection 2 of section 14-08.1-05.1 of
8 the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 m. Postsecondary education and any other activity permitted or required to be
10 treated by the federal government as work for purposes of calculating a work
11 participation rate ~~under 42 U.S.C. 607(b).~~

12 **SECTION 2.** A new subsection to section 50-09-01 of the North Dakota Century Code
13 is created and enacted as follows:

14 "Work activity" means any activity permitted or required to be treated as work for
15 purposes of calculating a work participation rate.

16 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **50-09-29. Requirements for administration of temporary assistance for needy**
19 **families.**

20 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, and ~~5 through 7~~ 4, the department of
21 human services, in its administration of the temporary assistance for needy families
22 program, shall:

23 a. Provide assistance to otherwise eligible women in the third trimester of a
24 pregnancy;

- 1 b. Except as provided in subdivision c, afford eligible households benefits for no
2 more than sixty months;
- 3 c. ~~Exempt up to twenty percent of the caseload~~ eligible households from the
4 requirements of subdivision b due to mental or physical disability of a parent
5 or child, mental or physical incapacity of a parent, or other hardship including
6 a parent subject to domestic violence as defined in section 14-07.1-01;
- 7 d. Unless an exemption, exclusion, or disregard is required by law, count income
8 and assets whenever actually available;
- 9 e. ~~Unless otherwise required by federal law, and except~~ Except as provided in
10 subdivision k j, and as required to allow the state to receive funds from the
11 federal government under title IV-A, provide no benefits to noncitizen
12 immigrants who arrive in the United States after August 21, 1996, ~~for the first~~
13 ~~five years of residence in the United States, and after five years of residence,~~
14 ~~until the immigrant has ten years of work history, provide benefits only after~~
15 ~~considering the income and assets of the immigrant's sponsor;~~
- 16 f. Limit eligibility to households with total available assets, not otherwise
17 exempted or excluded, of a value established by the department not to
18 exceed five thousand dollars for a one-person household and eight thousand
19 dollars for a household of two or more;
- 20 g. Exclude one motor vehicle of any value in determining eligibility;
- 21 h. Require work activities ~~as defined in section 14-08.1-05.1~~ for all household
22 members not specifically exempted by the department of human services for
23 reasons such as mental or physical disability of a parent or child or mental or
24 physical incapacity of a parent;
- 25 i. Establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of
26 out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish numerical goals for reducing the
27 illegitimacy rate for the state for periods through calendar year 2005;
- 28 j. ~~Conduct a program, designed to reach state and local law enforcement~~
29 ~~officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services, which~~
30 ~~provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that~~

- 1 ~~teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to~~
2 ~~include men;~~
- 3 k. Provide To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the
4 federal government under title IV-A, provide benefits to otherwise eligible
5 noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States ~~as refugees,~~
6 ~~asylees, veterans, active-duty military personnel, spouses and dependents of~~
7 ~~active-duty military personnel, and Cuban-Haitian entrants;~~
- 8 f. k. Establish and enforce standards against program fraud and abuse;
- 9 m. ~~Establish procedures to screen and identify victims of domestic violence for~~
10 ~~referral to appropriate services which are to be incorporated into the~~
11 ~~temporary assistance for needy families program assessment;~~
- 12 n. l. Provide ~~an~~ employment placement ~~program~~ programs;
- 13 e. ~~Implement, as soon as practicable, an electronic fund transfer system;~~
- 14 p. ~~Consider exempting funds in individual development accounts;~~
- 15 q. m. Determine the unemployment rate of adults living in a county that includes
16 Indian reservation lands and a significant population of Indian individuals ~~by~~
17 ~~using unemployment data provided by job service North Dakota;~~
- 18 r. n. When appropriate, require household members to complete high school;
- 19 s. o. ~~Exempt~~ To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the
20 federal government under title IV-A, exempt single parents from required work
21 ~~activities as defined in section 14-08.1-05.1 if the exempted parent has a child~~
22 ~~under four months of age;~~
- 23 t. p. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if
24 a household member fails to cooperate with work requirements;
- 25 u. q. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if
26 a household member fails, without good cause, to cooperate with child
27 support activities;
- 28 v. r. Deny assistance with respect to a minor child absent from the household for
29 more than one calendar month, except as specifically provided by the state
30 agency for absences;

- 1 subsection 1, the department of human services shall administer the program in a
2 manner that avoids the reduction or loss.
- 3 ~~3. If the caseload of households provided assistance exceeds projections provided to~~
4 ~~the fifty-fifth legislative assembly by the department of human services, the~~
5 ~~department of human services, subject to the approval of the legislative council,~~
6 ~~shall administer the temporary assistance for needy families program in a manner~~
7 ~~that avoids expending or committing all funds appropriated for that purpose earlier~~
8 ~~than June 30, 1999.~~
- 9 ~~4. If administratively feasible, the department may establish a program that provides~~
10 ~~for payment of assistance after performance by individuals required to engage in~~
11 ~~work activities, as defined in section 14-08.1-05.1.~~
- 12 ~~5. If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the~~
13 ~~legislative council, that there is insufficient worker opportunity, due to increases in~~
14 ~~the unemployment rate, to participate in work activities as defined by section~~
15 ~~14-08.1-05.4, the department may administer the temporary assistance for needy~~
16 ~~families program in a manner different than provided in subsection 1.~~
- 17 ~~6.~~ 4. If the department of human services determines, subject to the approval of the
18 legislative council, that administration of the temporary assistance for needy
19 families program, in the manner provided by subsection 1, causes otherwise
20 eligible individuals to become a charge upon the counties under chapter 50-01, the
21 department may administer the program in a manner that avoids that result.
- 22 ~~7. If projected rates of expenditures for operation of the temporary assistance for~~
23 ~~needy families program, approved by the legislative council, indicate that~~
24 ~~appropriations for that purpose will be expended or committed earlier than June 30,~~
25 ~~1999, the department of human services shall administer the temporary assistance~~
26 ~~for needy families program in a manner that avoids that result.~~