

**SENATE BILL NO. 2181**

Introduced by

Senators K. Roers, Cleary, Mathern

Representatives O'Brien, Rohr, M. Ruby

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 50-09-29, 50-24.1-02.6, and 50-24.1-41 of the  
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to public assistance for pregnant women.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **50-09-29. Requirements for administration of temporary assistance for needy**  
7 **families.**

8 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, and 4, the state agency, in its administration of  
9 the temporary assistance for needy families program, shall:

10 a. Provide assistance to otherwise eligible pregnant women in the third trimester of  
11 a pregnancy who are lawfully present in the United States;

12 b. Except as provided in subdivision c, afford eligible households benefits for no  
13 more than sixty months;

14 c. Exempt eligible households from the requirements of subdivision b due to mental  
15 or physical disability of a parent or child, mental or physical incapacity of a  
16 parent, or other hardship including a parent subject to domestic violence as  
17 defined in section 14-07.1-01;

18 d. Unless an exemption, exclusion, or disregard is required by law, count income  
19 and assets whenever actually available;

20 e. Except as provided in subdivision subdivisions a and j, and as required to allow  
21 the state to receive funds from the federal government under title IV-A, provide  
22 no benefits to noncitizen immigrants who arrive in the United States after  
23 August 21, 1996;

- 1 f. Limit eligibility to households with total available assets, not otherwise exempted
- 2 or excluded, of a value established by the state agency;
- 3 g. Exclude one motor vehicle of any value in determining eligibility;
- 4 h. Require work activities for all household members not specifically exempted by
- 5 the state agency for reasons such as mental or physical disability of a parent or
- 6 child or mental or physical incapacity of a parent;
- 7 i. Establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of
- 8 out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish numerical goals for reducing the
- 9 illegitimacy rate for the state for periods through calendar year 2005;
- 10 j. To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the federal
- 11 government under title IV-A, provide benefits to otherwise eligible noncitizens
- 12 who are lawfully present in the United States;
- 13 k. Establish and enforce standards against program fraud and abuse;
- 14 l. Provide employment placement programs;
- 15 m. Exempt from assets and income the savings and proportionate matching funds in
- 16 individual development accounts;
- 17 n. Determine the unemployment rate of adults living in a county that includes Indian
- 18 reservation lands and a significant population of Indian individuals by using
- 19 unemployment data provided by job service North Dakota;
- 20 o. When appropriate, require household members to complete high school;
- 21 p. To the extent required to allow the state to receive funds from the federal
- 22 government under title IV-A, exempt single parents from required work activities;
- 23 q. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a
- 24 household member fails to cooperate with work requirements;
- 25 r. Provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the household, if a
- 26 household member fails, without good cause, to cooperate with child support
- 27 activities;
- 28 s. 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           t.    Require each household to participate in developing an individual employment  
2           plan and provide for sanctions, including termination of assistance to the  
3           household, if adult or minor household members age sixteen or older fail to  
4           cooperate with the terms of the individual employment plan;
- 5           u.    Provide pre-pregnancy family planning services that are to be incorporated into  
6           the temporary assistance for needy families program assessment;
- 7           v.    ~~Except in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, not increase~~Increase  
8           the assistance amount to recognize the increase in household size when a child  
9           is born to a household member who was a recipient of assistance under this  
10          chapter during the probable month of the child's conception;
- 11          w.    Disregard earned income as an incentive allowance for no more than twelve  
12          months; and
- 13          x.    Consider, and if determined appropriate, authorize demonstration projects in  
14          defined areas which may provide benefits and services that are not identical to  
15          benefits and services provided elsewhere.
- 16          2.    If the secretary of the United States department of health and human services  
17          determines that funds otherwise available for the temporary assistance for needy  
18          families program in this state must be reduced or eliminated should the state agency  
19          administer the program in accordance with any provision of subsection 1, the state  
20          agency shall administer the program in a manner that avoids the reduction or loss.
- 21          3.    If the state agency determines, subject to the approval of the legislative management,  
22          that there is insufficient worker opportunity, due to increases in the unemployment  
23          rate, to participate in work activities, the state agency may administer the temporary  
24          assistance for needy families program in a manner different than provided in  
25          subsection 1.
- 26          4.    If the state agency determines, subject to the approval of the legislative management,  
27          that administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program, in the  
28          manner provided by subsection 1, causes otherwise eligible individuals to become a  
29          charge upon the human service zones under chapter 50-01, the state agency may  
30          administer the program in a manner that avoids that result.

- 1           5. The state agency may not deny assistance to any individual who has been convicted  
2           of a felony offense that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a  
3           controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substance Act [21  
4           U.S.C. 802(6)].

5           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **50-24.1-02.6. Medical assistance benefits - Eligibility criteria.**

- 8           1. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible  
9           persons who are medically needy persons who have countable income that does not  
10          exceed an amount determined under subsection 2.  
11          2. The department shall establish an income level for medically needy persons at an  
12          amount no less than required by federal law.  
13          3. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families  
14          coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.  
15          4. The department shall provide medical assistance benefits to otherwise eligible  
16          pregnant women who are lawfully present in the United States.  
17          5. The department may require, as a condition of eligibility, individuals eligible for  
18          Medicare part A, B, or D to apply for such coverage.

19          **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 50-24.1-41 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21          **50-24.1-41. Medical assistance benefits - Pregnant women - Postpartum.**

22          The department shall seek the necessary approval from the centers for Medicare and  
23          Medicaid services to expand medical assistance coverage for pregnant women with income  
24          below one hundred sixty-two percent of the federal poverty level. Services under this section  
25          must be for the duration of the pregnancy and the postpartum period consisting of the  
26          twelve-month period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy.