



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Revised Committee Statement
LB 351

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Stuthman)
Title: Change and provide for transitional public assistance payments

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Gay, Pankonin, Stuthman
	No	
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

Proponents:
 Senator Stuthman
 Chris Peterson

Representing:
 Introducer
 Health and Human Services System

Opponents:
 Martha L. Brown
 Terry Werner

 Thomas O’Neill, Jr.

 Regina Young
 Jennifer Hernandez

Representing:
 College of Saint Mary
 Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska
 Self
 Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 351 changes various provisions of the Welfare Reform Act, and the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program.

The bill provides for monthly ongoing transitional payments for five months after the family becomes ineligible for ADC payments, if the family income is at or below 185% of the

federal poverty level. The payments are intended to meet the recipient family's ongoing basic needs, including "food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items, and general incidental expenses." Payments would be discontinued if, during the five-month period, (1) the family earnings exceed 185% of the federal poverty level, (2) the family members are no longer working, (3) the family ceases to be Nebraska residents, (4) there is no longer a minor child in the family household, or (5) the family again becomes eligible for ADC program.

The bill changes provisions of the Medical Assistance Act (Medicaid) to harmonize changes made to section 68-1713 in section 5 of the bill.

The bill amends provisions in section 68-1710 relating to the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the Welfare Reform Act in a manner consistent with federal law, specifically the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).

The bill amends section 68-1713 to remove references to the welfare reform waiver submitted by the department under PRWORA

The bill provides that transitional medical assistance after termination of ADC eligibility would only be provided "if funding for such transitional medical assistance is available under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act." The bill deletes welfare reform policy provisions in section 68-1713 and deletes obsolete references.

The bill deletes references to the two-year time limit on the receipt of ADC cash assistance under the Welfare Reform Act in various sections.

The bill amends section 68-1721 to eliminate postsecondary education as a recognized activity under the Welfare Reform Act and self-sufficiency contract requirements under the act.

Current law requires full participation in activities outlined in the self-sufficiency contract for adult members in a two-parent recipient family whose youngest child is over the age of six months. Part-time participation in activities outlined in the self-sufficiency contract is required for an adult member of a single-parent recipient family whose youngest child is under the age of six years.

The bill amends section 68-1724 to provide that cash assistance under the Welfare Reform Act may not exceed sixty months, deletes references to the current two-year time limit on such assistance, and harmonizes provisions.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 645) restores postsecondary education as a recognized work activity under the Welfare Reform Act

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson