

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB871

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: January 20, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 871 will formalize the methodology of the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities for determining a client's financial eligibility on a schedule of fees and co-pays into a uniform policy. The current calculation method includes: taxable income and number of family members dependent on the income. The new method will include liabilities of the client. In anticipation of future changes the Division has added "other factors as determined by the division." The Governing Board of each Region will approve the methodology and include it in their annual budget plan to the Division of Public Health. The administrator of the Region and the division will assure that this eligibility formula is uniformly used across each region and across the State.

LB 871 also exempts the Regions from the methodology being used by the Division to determine financial eligibility that includes asset determination. The reason for this exemption is that the service providers who contract with the Regions do the calculation to do determine the eligibility of consumers cannot gather or confirm asset information of a consumer.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Gloor