

1 SENATE BILL 241

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pat Woods

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; ESTABLISHING A "CLIFF EFFECT
12 AMELIORATION PROGRAM" AT THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO
13 CREATE POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS TO
14 DECREASE DEPENDENCE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WHILE REDUCING OR
15 REMOVING THE CLIFF EFFECT.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] CLIFF EFFECT AMELIORATION
19 PROGRAM--GOALS.--

20 A. The secretary of human services shall establish
21 a "cliff effect amelioration program" to:

22 (1) reduce or remove the cliff effect
23 experienced by recipients enrolled in each of the public
24 assistance programs that the human services department
25 administers by ensuring that the value of greater financial

.209935.1

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1 independence to recipients is greater than the value of public
2 assistance lost due to income and resource eligibility
3 thresholds; and

4 (2) decrease dependence on public assistance
5 by encouraging financial independence among recipients.

6 B. The human services department shall seek
7 authority in accordance with state and federal law as well as
8 state or federal funding as necessary to design public
9 assistance program eligibility thresholds in a manner that
10 conforms to the goals of the cliff effect amelioration program.

11 C. As used in this section, "cliff effect" means a
12 precipitous change in eligibility for a public assistance
13 program that occurs when an individual's or a household's
14 income or resources surpass the program eligibility threshold
15 and the value of lost or reduced public assistance exceeds or
16 nearly exceeds the benefit of the individual's or household's
17 increase in income or resources.