

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE BILL 119

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Arthur H. Rodarte

FOR THE WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; AMENDING THE NEW MEXICO WORKS
ACT TO CLARIFY THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GROUP.

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

Section 1. A new section of the New Mexico Works Act is
enacted to read:

" NEW MATERIAL HOUSEHOLD GROUP-- BENEFIT GROUP. --

A. An applicant shall report to the department the
names of all of the members of the applicant's household group
or benefit group. A household group may contain more than one
benefit group.

B. An applicant shall decide which members of his
household group shall be counted as members of his benefit
group.

C. A participant shall report to the department

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

any changes in his household group or benefit group. "

- 2 -

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

2 FIRST SESSION, 1999

3
4
5
6 February 10, 1999

7
8 Mr. President:

9
10 Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been
11 referred

12
13 SENATE BILL 119

14
15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17
18
19 Respectfully submitted,

20
21
22
23
24 _____
25 Shannon Robinson, Chairman

. 124738. 2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 Adopted _____ Not

2 Adopted _____

3 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

4

5

6

7 Date _____

8

9

10 The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 7

12 No: 0

13 Excused: Leavell, Smith

14 Absent: None

15

16

17 S0119PA1

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
3
4
5

6 March 9, 1999
7

8 Mr. Speaker:
9

10 Your LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to whom
11 has been referred
12

13 SENATE BILL 119
14

15 has had it under consideration and reports same with
16 recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:
17

18 1. On pages 1 and 2, strike Section 1 in its entirety
19 and insert in lieu thereof the following:
20

21 "Section 1. Section 27-2B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
22 1998, Chapter 8, Section 4 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section
23 4) is amended to read:

24 "27-2B-4. APPLICATION--RESOURCE PLANNING SESSION--
25 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY PLANS--PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT--

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 6

REVIEW PERIODS. - -

A. Application for cash assistance or services shall be made to the department's county office in the county or district in which an applicant resides. The application shall be in writing or reduced to writing in the manner and on the form prescribed by the department. The application shall be made under oath by an applicant having custody of a dependent child and shall contain a statement of the age of the child, residence, a complete statement of the amount of property in which the applicant has an interest, a statement of all income that he and other household group members have at the time of the filing of the application and other information required by the department.

B. Application for expedited food stamps shall be made to the department's county office in the county or district in which an applicant resides. The department shall process the application for expedited food stamps within twenty-four hours after the application is made.

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 7

C. At the time of application for cash assistance and services, an applicant shall identify household group members who are to be counted in the benefit group. Once an application is approved, the participant shall advise the department if there are any changes in the membership of the household group or benefit group. A household group may contain more than one benefit group.

D. No later than forty-five days after an application is filed, the department shall provide to an applicant a resource planning session to ascertain his immediate needs, assess financial and nonfinancial options, make referrals and act on the application.

E. No later than five days after an application is approved, the department shall provide reimbursement for child care.

F. Whenever the department receives an application for assistance, a verification and record of the applicant's circumstances shall promptly be made to ascertain the facts supporting the application and to obtain other information required by the department. The verification may include a visit to the home of the applicant, as long as the

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 8

department gives adequate prior notice of the visit to the applicant.

G. Within fifteen days after an application is approved, the department shall assess the education, skills, prior work experience and employability of the participant.

H. After the initial assessment of skills, the department shall work with the participant to develop an individual responsibility plan that:

(1) sets forth an employment goal for the participant and a plan for moving the participant into employment;

(2) sets forth obligations of the participant that may include a requirement that the participant attend school, maintain certain grades and attendance, keep his school-age children in school, immunize his children or engage in other activities that will help the participant become and remain employed;

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 9

(3) is designed to the greatest extent possible to move the participant into whatever employment the participant is capable of handling and to provide additional services as necessary to increase the responsibility and amount of work the participant will handle over time;

(4) describes the services the department may provide so that the participant may obtain and keep employment; and

(5) may require the participant to undergo appropriate substance abuse treatment.

I. The participant and a representative of the department shall sign the participant's individual responsibility plan.

J. The participant shall also sign a participation agreement that designates the number of hours that he must participate in work activities to meet participation standards.

K. The department shall review the current

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 10

financial eligibility of a benefit group when the department reviews food stamp eligibility.

L. The department shall meet semi-annually with a participant to review and revise his individual responsibility plan.

M The department shall develop a complaint procedure to address issues pertinent to the delivery of services and other issues relating to a participant's individual responsibility plan. "".

Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Chairwoman

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

HLC/SB 119

Page 11

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 5 For 0 Against

Yes: 5

Excused: Rios

Absent: Foley, Roberts, Tripp

127837.1

c:\Reports\S0119LA1.wpd

. 124738. 2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete