

HB 73 -- Restrictions on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Program Benefits

Sponsor: Brandom

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to develop a program to screen and test each work-eligible applicant or work-eligible recipient for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program benefits who the department has reasonable cause to believe, based on the screening, engages in the illegal use of controlled substances. An applicant or recipient who tested positive for the illegal use of a controlled substance which has not been prescribed by a licensed health care provider must, after an administrative hearing by the department, be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for one year from the date of the administrative hearing decision and must be referred to an appropriate substance abuse treatment program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Mental Health. Any member of a household which includes a person who has been declared ineligible for TANF benefits, if otherwise eligible, will continue to receive benefits as protective or vendor payments to a third-party payee.