

HB 1589 -- SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Wieland

This bill changes the law regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

An individual who has pled guilty to or is found guilty under federal or state law of a felony involving possession or use of a controlled substance must be exempt from the prohibition against eligibility for SNAP benefits for the convictions if the Department of Social Services determines that the individual meets at least one of the following conditions:

- (1) He or she is currently successfully participating in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Mental Health;
- (2) He or she is currently accepted for treatment in and participating in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the division but is on a wait list to receive the treatment and the individual enrolls in and enters the treatment program at the first available opportunity;
- (3) He or she has satisfactorily completed a substance abuse treatment program approved by the division;
- (4) He or she is successfully complying with or has complied with all obligations imposed by the court, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Division of Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections;
- (5) He or she has demonstrated sobriety through voluntary urinalysis testing paid for by the participant; or
- (6) It has been over four years since the drug-related felony conviction.

Eligibility must be based upon documentary or other evidence deemed satisfactory by the Department of Social Services and the applicant must meet all other eligibility requirements. The department, in consultation with the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, must create rules to carry out the provisions of the bill, including the criteria for determining active participation in and completion of a substance abuse treatment program.