

HB 588 -- DRUG TESTING

SPONSOR: English

This bill specifies that subject to federal approval, the Department of Social Services must implement a program of random drug testing of all individuals 18 years of age or older who receive supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits. The Department of Social Services must have full discretion as to the number of recipients tested and at what intervals.

Any recipient who tests positive for drugs that have not been lawfully prescribed, or based on the testing has been shown to have abused the use of drugs that were otherwise lawfully prescribed, must participate in a drug treatment program. A recipient who tests positive for drugs under these circumstances and fails to participate in a drug treatment program is not eligible to receive SNAP benefits. If a recipient fails or refuses to submit to testing, any application for benefits must be denied and any benefits currently being received must be terminated.

On or before February 1, 2016, and every year thereafter that the program is in operation, the Department of Social Services must submit an evaluation of the program to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tem of the Senate. The evaluation must include the number of individuals tested, drug tested for, results of the testing, number of referrals for treatment, cost of the testing and treatment, and number of recipients who tested positive for drugs and were denied assistance for failure to comply with a drug treatment program.