

HB 654 -- TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

SPONSOR: Allen

This bill specifies that beginning January 1, 2016, any parent or caretaker seeking assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) must engage in work activities before becoming eligible for benefits, unless the individual is otherwise exempt from the work requirement.

If after an investigation the department determines the parent or caretaker is not cooperating with a work activity requirement under the TANF program, the department must immediately apply a sanction terminating the total amount of temporary assistance benefits to or for the individual and his or her family for a minimum of one month. During the month of sanctions, the individual must remain on the caseload in sanction status. To cure the sanction, he or she must perform 30 consecutive days of work activities. If the individual does not cure the sanction, the case must be closed.

To return to the TANF program after having been sanctioned off the caseload, the parent or caretaker must complete 30 days of work activities within 40 days of the temporary assistance eligibility interview. These provisions do not prohibit the state from providing child care or any other related social or support services for the individual who is eligible for financial assistance but to whom that assistance is not paid because of his or her failure to cooperate with the work activity.