

HB 939 -- Public Assistance Benefits

Sponsor: Fitzpatrick

This bill changes the laws regarding public assistance benefits. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires the Division of Family Services within the Department of Social Services, when determining eligibility and the amount of public assistance benefits to be granted pursuant to federal aided programs, to take into account the income and resources of all relatives, members of the household, and any other individuals who are 21 years of age or older and living in the home;

(2) Requires each recipient of temporary assistance for needy families benefits 16 years of age or older to participate in work activities in accordance with federal regulation. The department must determine the standards and procedures for the referral of individuals for work activities; and

(3) Specifies that the MO HealthNet Division must screen all recipients of MO HealthNet benefits to determine if the recipients are eligible to participate in the Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPPP). All eligible recipients must participate in the HIPPP program if it is determined to be cost effective for the division.