

HB 949 -- Temporary Assistance Benefits for Needy Families

Sponsor: Gatschenberger

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to develop a program to test applicants and recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program benefits for the use of a controlled substance whenever a caseworker has reasonable cause to believe, based on a reasonable suspicion, that the applicant or recipient engages in the illegal use of controlled substances. Applicants or recipients who test positive for the use of a controlled substance will, after an administrative hearing, be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for three years beginning on the date of the administrative hearing decision. The department must refer an individual who tested positive to an appropriate substance abuse treatment program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Mental Health. If a parent is declared ineligible due to a drug test, his or her dependent child's eligibility will not be affected and the child will continue to receive payments through a protective payee.