

HB 1377 -- Restrictions on Temporary Assistance Benefits for  
Needy Families

Sponsor: Brandom

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to develop a program to screen and test work-eligible applicants for or work-eligible recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program benefits who the department has reasonable cause to believe, based on the screening, engage in the illegal use of controlled substances. Applicants and recipients who test positive for the use of a controlled substance which has not been prescribed by a licensed health care provider will, after an administrative hearing by the department, be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for one year beginning on the date of the administrative hearing decision and will be referred to an appropriate substance abuse treatment program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Mental Health. Any member of a household which includes a person who has been declared ineligible for TANF benefits, if otherwise eligible, will continue to receive protective or vendor payments through a third-party payee.