

HB 1394 -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Brandom

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill specifies that no temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), food stamps, or other public assistance benefits can be used by a recipient for the purchase of any liquor or tobacco products. The Department of Social Services must implement the necessary measures to ensure that these provisions are complied with by recipients.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the benefits a person receives from the state should only be used for legitimate purposes and not to purchase alcohol and tobacco products. The bill prohibits a TANF debit card from being used to buy these items. All the major credit card issuers have the ability to prevent these products from being purchased using a TANF debit card so this will be easy to implement.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brandom; Missouri Hospital Association; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.