

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 654

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN.

1578H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 208, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to public assistance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 208, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 208.026, to read as follows:

208.026. 1. Beginning January 1, 2016, any parent or caretaker seeking assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program shall engage in work activities before becoming eligible for benefits, unless such individual is otherwise exempt from the work requirement.

2. If after an investigation the department determines that a person is not cooperating with a work activity requirement under the temporary assistance for needy families program, the department shall immediately apply a sanction terminating the total amount of temporary assistance benefits to or for the person and the person's family for a minimum of one month. During that month of sanctions, the person shall remain on the caseload in sanction status. To cure a sanction, the person shall perform thirty consecutive days of work activities. If the person does not cure the sanction, the case shall be closed.

3. To return to the temporary assistance for needy families benefits program after having been sanctioned off the caseload under subsection 1 of this section, the person shall complete thirty days of work activities within forty days of the temporary assistance eligibility interview.

4. This section does not prohibit the state from providing child care or any other related social or support services for a person who is eligible for financial assistance but

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 to whom that assistance is not paid because of the person's failure to cooperate with the
19 work activity.

20 5. The department shall promulgate rules to implement this section including
21 procedures to determine whether a person has cooperated with the requirements of the
22 work activity and procedures for notification of a caretaker relative, second parent, or
23 payee receiving the financial assistance on behalf of the person's family unit. Any rule or
24 portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
25 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
26 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
27 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general
28 assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove
29 and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
30 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be invalid and
31 void.

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