

April 15, 1999

**H 1243. WELFARE LAW CHANGES.** *TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES LAW PERTAINING TO THE MEDICAID STANDARD OF NEED, PAY-AFTER-PERFORMANCE FOR TWO-PARENT FAMILIES, TIME LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.* Requires that eligibility criteria for Work First in all counties include the Medicaid standard of need for categorically eligible families and that qualified two-parent families receive assistance for three months after qualifying for assistance. Prohibits time limits for Work First in standard and electing counties other than 60-month federal time limit. Requires that for up to 20% of Work First recipients, work activities shall include at least part-time enrollment in a postsecondary education program. Requires DHHS and Dep't of Transportation to report to the Joint Legislative Public Assistance Comm'n and the Senate and House Health and Human Resources Appropriations Committees by May 1, 2000 on the implementation of strategies for assisting low-wage workers receiving Work First assistance in obtaining dependable transportation to work, child care, and education. Requires DHHS to amend state Work First plan to include changes made by this act and other legislation enacted in 1999.

**Intro. by Adams.**

Ref. to Welfare Reform

GS 108A

July 1, 1999

**H 1243. WELFARE LAW CHANGE.** Intro. 4/15/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Changes title to "AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE WORK FIRST LAW PERTAINING TO MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT, SUPPORT SERVICES, PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE FOR TWO-PARENT FAMILIES, AND OTHER AREAS OF WELFARE REFORM." Sets TANF availability for families with income not more than 200% of the federal poverty level. Other services may be provided without regard to income; work-related services under TANF may be provided to noncustodial parent of minor child whose custodial parent is a TANF recipient, or to a noncustodial parent of a minor child in a child-only case, except if provision of services would limit or reduce Work First assistance. Noncustodial parent's family income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. Encourages counties during the enrollment process to provide information about and encourage participants to pursue available education or training services. Amends GS 108-27.1 to reduce from 36 to 18 months the period of time a family must wait for reapplying for benefits under that chapter after meeting 24 month limit on benefits. Amends GS 108A-27.2(2) and 108-27.9(c)(4) to specify that Dep't is to include in the state plan specifying authorized work activities a provision allowing part time enrollment in postsecondary education program to count as work activity (limited to 20% of participants), and in standard counties provides that recipient maintaining 2.5 grade point average has two year limit on benefits extended for up to three years. Amends GS 108A-27 to specify that Dep't is to monitor impact of Work First Program on job retention and advancement, and that system should allow monitoring based on both aggregated and disaggregated data. Amends GS 108A-27.2 and 108A-27.9(c) to require that the program provide that two-parent families receive cash assistance for 3 months after qualifying without being subject to pay for performance requirements. Limits cash assistance or diversion assistance received prior to being subject to pay for performance requirements to one time within a 12-month period. Deletes GS 108A-27.11(c) relating to the electing county's allocation for Work First Family Assistance and rewrites provision in (b) to except from that provision state funds budgeted for state and county demonstration projects authorized by the General Assembly and for Work First Family Assistance payments. Appropriates \$171,035,000 for Work First Cash Assistance. Amends SL 199-237 to provide that of the funds appropriated to Dep't in the TANF Block Grant program, \$6,189,025 is to be used for grants for pilot programs designed to address problems of families with significant employment barriers to economic self-sufficiency and to reduce or prevent intergenerational poverty. Lists outcomes for pilot programs and require quarterly reports to legislative committees beginning Dec. 1, 1999.

Amends GS 108A-27.12 (Maintenance of effort) to require that state plan define services that can be provided with TANF funds and with State and county maintenance of effort funds. Requires the Dep't to allow flexibility in spending to maximize use of resources while meeting federal maintenance of efforts requirements. Requires counties that fail to meet those maintenance of effort requirements and performance indicators for reducing maintenance of effort to submit corrective action plan, authorizes reduction of block grant allocations, and authorizes Director of Budget to withhold state funds. Requires standard counties to maintain funding at 100% of the 1996-97 level for AFDC Administration, JOBS employment and training, and AFDC Emergency Assistance, and allows reduction if county can demonstrate that it is meeting the needs of clients as defined in performance indicators. Authorizes Dep't to reallocate state or federal funds released from a county, subject to county match. Sets maintenance of effort for electing counties at 90% which may be reduced to 80% if the county achieves 100% of its goals under its plan. Requires quarterly report by Dep't on extent to which maintenance of effort requirements are being met. Requires cash assistance payments under Work First to be calculated based on the standard of need in effect for the 1997-98 fiscal year and directs Dep't to change TANF State Plan accordingly. Directs Dep't and Dep't of Transportation to work together to develop strategy to assist low-wage workers receiving Work First Assistance to obtain dependable transportation for work, education and child care.; report on strategy to legislature by May 1, 2000.