

April 15, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES (=H 1255).** *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 AREAS OF WELFARE REFORM.* 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. Reduces from 36 months to 18 months the "waiting period" following termination of assistance under Work First 24-month time limit. Requires that Work First cases be reviewed three months before family reaches 24-month time limit to ensure that time limit has been calculated correctly and allow extension of cash assistance benefits if family qualifies for an extension. Requires DHHS to review county Work First programs of electing counties and recommend to Joint Legislative Public Assistance Comm'n whether county should continue to be designated as electing county. Requires DHHS to amend state Work First plan to include changes made by this act and other legislation enacted in 1999.

**Intro. by Martin of Guilford and Lucas.**

Ref. to Ch. & Hum Res.

GS 108A

June 30, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES.** Intro. 4/15/99. Senate 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 108A-27.2 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 three 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 and appropriates \$6,189,025 to Dep't of Human Services, Div'n of Social Services from the TANF Block Grant to use 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 requires quarterly reports to legislative committees. 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.

July 6, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES.** Intro. 4/15/99. Senate amendment makes technical changes to 2nd edition.

July 9, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES.** Intro. 4/14/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Amends GS 108A-27.1(a) to allow a person who has received cash assistance for 24 months to reapply after 18 months (was, 36 months) from the last month he or she received assistance. Revises GS 108A-27.2 to include part-time enrollment in a postsecondary education program in the definition of authorized State work activities for up to 20% of Work First recipients. Provides that in Standard counties, recipients who maintain a 2.5 grade point average shall have their two-year time limit suspended for up to three years. Restores GS 108-27.11(c) relating to electing counties' allocation for Work First Family Assistance. Requires DHHS and the Dep't of Transportation to work together to develop strategies for assisting workers receiving Work First Assistance in obtaining transportation, child care, and education activities and to submit a report on the development and implementation of those strategies by no later than May 1, 2000.

July 13, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES.** Intro. 4/15/99. House amendment makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Requires Dep't of Health and Human Services to implement a pilot program in at least 3 counties of substance abuse testing, including random testing, as a condition of eligibility for applicants for benefits under the Work First Program. Authorizes both Standard and Electing counties to apply to Dep't to implement a pilot program and to use Work First County Block Grant funds for the cost of administering program. Specifies procedures for program, including testing for alcohol or drugs, sample retesting, and substance abuse treatment requirements as a condition to receiving Work First Program benefits for applicants who test positive. Participating counties must report to Dep't on program implementation, including number of applicants tested, number that participate in treatment, and whether treatment was successful in helping recipients overcome barriers to employment that result from substance abuse. Dep't is to report on pilot program implementation to 1999 Session by May 1, 2000, and to 2001 General Assembly by June 1, 2001. Act is effective when it becomes law; expires Oct. 1, 2001.

July 20, 1999

**S 1134. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES.** Intro. 4/15/99. Conference report recommends the following changes to 5th edition to reconcile matters in controversy. Provides that funds appropriated in SL 1999-237, Sec. 5, from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant for fiscal 1999-2000 for Work First Cash Assistance is changed from \$133,436,855 to \$133,506,855 for Standard Counties, and from \$43,787,170 to \$38,317,170 for Electing Counties. Appropriates \$5.4 million from TANF funds from fiscal 1999-2000, to be used to make grants to pilot programs as specified in act. Pilot programs to address problems of families with significant employment barriers to economic self-sufficiency. Lists target outcomes for pilot programs. Grants to be made by Dep't of Health and Human Services, and any local or state agency or nonprofit tax-exempt organization may apply for funds. Sec'y of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines for grant review, evaluation, and award, with progress reports to Joint Legislative Public Assistance Comm'n, Senate Appropriations Committee on Human Resources,

House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and Fiscal Research Division at least quarterly, beginning no later than Dec. 1, 1999. Makes statutory citation correction. Adds provision to GS 108A-27.12(f) that this subsection does not apply to any electing county that achieved 100 percent of its goals during fiscal 1998-99. Deletes sunset provision.