

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 911

By: Senator L. Chesterfield
By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET LIMITS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF); TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS, CONSISTENCY, AND EFFICIENCY OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION; TO UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING THE CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET LIMITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET LIMITS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Public benefit programs currently restrict eligibility to individuals and families with few or no resources or assets to ensure that public resources are accurately allocated to those most in need;

(2) Resource or asset limits discourage savings and deter



families from making investments, potentially increasing the duration that a family is reliant on public benefits;

(3) In theory, resource or asset limits cause public benefits to be denied to families who are only marginally more financially secure than those families that do qualify;

(4) The current resource or asset limit is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

(5) The state has discretion to change or eliminate the resource or asset limits for these and other programs administered by the Department of Human Services; and

(6) To be prudent with our limited public resources, a study should be conducted to analyze the potential effects of changing or eliminating the resource or asset limits on the SNAP and TANF programs.

(b)(1) The department shall conduct a study on the effectiveness, consistency, and efficiency of the SNAP and TANF public benefit programs and program administration, including the impact of changing or eliminating resource or asset limits.

(2) The study shall include without limitation:

(A) The number of applicants for SNAP and TANF that were denied based on resource or asset limits;

(B) The cost associated with verifying resource or asset limits, including staff time and department resources;

(C) The cost implications of changing or eliminating the resource or asset limits;

(D) A review of practices, policies, and trends regarding resource and asset limits in other states, including how they apply to the SNAP and TANF programs; and

(E) An analysis of other public benefit programs that no longer have resource or asset limits.

(3) The department shall submit a report to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2013, that contains information learned from the study and findings and recommendations of the department as a result of the study.

APPROVED: 03/28/2013