

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative White offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 249 and 250, insert:

Section 5. Section 414.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.14 Public assistance policy simplification.—To the extent possible, the department shall align the requirements for eligibility under this chapter with the food assistance program and medical assistance eligibility policies and procedures to simplify the budgeting process and reduce errors. If the department determines that s. 414.075, relating to resources, or s. 414.085, relating to income, is inconsistent with federal law

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14 governing the food assistance program or medical assistance, and
15 that conformance to federal law would simplify administration of
16 the Temporary Cash Assistance Program or reduce errors without
17 materially increasing the cost of the program to the state, the
18 secretary of the department may propose a change in the resource
19 or income requirements of the program by rule, providing that
20 such change does not increase income or resource eligibility
21 standards for the program.

22 Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 414.175, Florida
23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24 414.175 Review of existing waivers.—

25 (2) The department shall review federal law, including
26 revisions to federal food assistance program requirements. If
27 the department determines that federal food assistance waivers
28 will further the goals of this chapter, including simplification
29 of program policies or program administration, the department
30 may obtain waivers if this can be accomplished within available
31 resources, providing that such waiver does not increase income
32 or resource eligibility standards for the food assistance
33 program above the levels set by federal regulations in 7 C.F.R.
34 s. 273.

35 Section 7. Section 414.315, Florida Statutes, is created
36 to read:

37 414.315 Food assistance program resource eligibility
38 standards.—

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39 (1) The department shall seek federal approval to
40 implement the following resource eligibility standards that
41 apply to all initial applications or recertifications for food
42 assistance:

43 (a) A household that does not include an elderly or
44 disabled member may not exceed the maximum allowable resources,
45 including both liquid and nonliquid assets, of \$2,250.

46 (b) A household that includes one or more members who are
47 disabled or one or more members who are age 60 or over may not
48 exceed the maximum allowable resources, including both liquid
49 and nonliquid assets, of \$3,250.

50 (2) The resource eligibility standards established in
51 subsection (1) are subject to any changes to the federal
52 regulations governing resource eligibility for food assistance
53 in 7 C.F.R. s. 273.8 and any applicable cost-of-living
54 adjustment.

55 (3) Unless expressly required by federal law, the
56 department shall obtain specific authorization from the
57 Legislature before seeking, applying for, accepting, or renewing
58 any waiver for food assistance which expands resource
59 eligibility beyond the limits established in subsection (1).

60 (4) This section does not apply to those households that
61 are federally required to be categorically eligible for food
62 assistance under 7 C.F.R. 273.2.

63 Section 8. Section 414.393, Florida Statutes, is created

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64 to read:

65 414.393 Applicant asset verification.—Upon federal
66 approval to implement the resource eligibility standards in s.
67 414.315, the department shall implement an asset verification
68 service for the purpose of determining eligibility for the food
69 assistance program.

70 Section 9. Paragraphs (c) and (d) are added to subsection
71 (7) of section 445.004, Florida Statutes, and subsection (13) is
72 added to that section, to read:

73 445.004 CareerSource Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
74 membership; duties and powers.—

75 (7) By December 1 of each year, CareerSource Florida,
76 Inc., shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
77 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Minority
78 Leader, and the House Minority Leader a complete and detailed
79 annual report setting forth:

80 (c) For each local workforce development board,
81 participant statistics and employment outcomes, by program, for
82 individuals subject to mandatory work requirements due to
83 receipt of temporary cash assistance or food assistance under
84 chapter 414, including:

- 85 1. Individuals served.
- 86 2. Services received.
- 87 3. Activities in which individuals participated.
- 88 4. Types of employment secured.

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89 5. Individuals securing employment but remaining in each
90 program.

91 6. Individuals exiting programs due to employment.

92 7. Employment status at 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months
93 after exiting the program, for the past 3 years.

94 (d) Interim outcomes of any pilot program implemented by a
95 local workforce development board selected pursuant to
96 subsection (13).

97 (13) The Legislature finds that some mandatory work
98 registrants in the Temporary Cash Assistance Program face
99 significant barriers to employment, which must be addressed with
100 services beyond those offered under a traditional workforce
101 program. To address this problem, CareerSource Florida, Inc., in
102 consultation with the department, shall implement a pilot
103 program to increase unsubsidized employment and earned income
104 among such registrants while reducing their reliance on public
105 assistance. The pilot program may not serve registrants who are
106 assessed as work ready or who do not face significant barriers
107 to employment.

108 (a) For the purposes of this subsection, "significant
109 barriers to employment" means at least one critical barrier or
110 three or more stand-alone barriers.

111 1. "Critical barriers" include substance abuse, mental
112 illness, physical or mental disability, domestic violence,
113 homelessness, and a criminal record affecting employment.

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114 2. "Stand-alone barriers" include significant job skill
115 deficiencies; significant soft-skill deficiencies, such as
116 communication, time management, and problem-solving skills;
117 child welfare system involvement; and a negative or nonexistent
118 employment history.

119 (b) CareerSource Florida, Inc., in consultation with the
120 department, shall contract with a vendor by October 31, 2017, to
121 develop the pilot program according to the following guidelines:

122 1. The vendor must have expertise in the design and
123 development of workforce programs.

124 2. The program design shall be based on the best available
125 research and shall include, at a minimum:

126 a. A comprehensive assessment to identify significant
127 barriers to employment, which shall be updated on an ongoing
128 basis. Such an assessment may collect information about the
129 registrant's educational attainment, level of literacy and
130 numeracy, basic skills, work experience, receipt of public
131 benefits, and other indicators of significant barriers.

132 b. An individual responsibility plan based on the
133 assessment, which includes a comprehensive service strategy to
134 address barriers to employment, whether sequentially or
135 simultaneously.

136 c. Intensive case management, including, but not limited
137 to, ongoing one-on-one guidance, motivation, and support for
138 registrants by assessing their needs and barriers, identifying

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139 resources, and advising on career and training opportunities.
140 Intensive case management also includes collaborative work with
141 community partners to provide comprehensive services to
142 registrants which are designed to address their barriers and
143 achieve program goals.

144 3. The program may include other elements to address
145 significant barriers, such as a combination of job search
146 assistance, basic skills training, vocational education,
147 strategies that connect registrants to relevant career
148 opportunities by supporting their efforts to obtain educational
149 certificates or industry certification, and transitional
150 employment subsidies to achieve the desired improvements in
151 employment and earnings.

152 (c) CareerSource Florida, Inc., in consultation with the
153 department, shall select at least three local workforce boards
154 to conduct the pilot program based on a board's:

155 1. Commitment to effectively serve the target population;

156 2. Established record of innovation in the delivery of
157 workforce services, preferably to the target population;

158 3. Existing strong community partnerships, including
159 partnerships with nonprofit entities and community colleges, to
160 provide workforce services; and

161 4. Commitment to implement the program for the target
162 population while continuing to serve other Temporary Cash
163 Assistance Program mandatory work registrants.

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164 (d) The local workforce boards selected for the pilot
165 program shall contract with vendors to implement the program.
166 The local workforce board shall give preference to vendors with
167 a demonstrated commitment to innovation in providing workforce
168 services or in serving populations with significant barriers.

169 (e) CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall submit a report to
170 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
171 the House of Representatives by December 15, 2020. The report
172 shall include the program design; participating entities;
173 participant demographics, including, but not limited to,
174 barriers identified; and the case management processes,
175 assessment processes, and services provided to participants, as
176 compared to those available under the local workforce board's
177 traditional workforce program. The report shall also include an
178 analysis of the effect of the program on participants' barriers
179 to employment, employment outcomes, household income, reliance
180 on public assistance, and other measures of household well-being
181 and self-sufficiency.

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183
184 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

185 Remove line 27 and insert:
186 relative and nonrelative caregivers; amending ss.
187 414.14 and 414.175, F.S.; authorizing changes to
188 public assistance policy and federal food assistance

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189 waivers to conform to federal law and simplify
190 administration unless such changes increase program
191 eligibility standards; creating s. 414.315, F.S.;
192 requiring the Department of Children and Families to
193 seek federal approval to establish food assistance
194 program resource eligibility standards for all initial
195 applications and recertifications; providing that such
196 standards are subject to changes in federal
197 regulations governing resource eligibility; requiring
198 the department to obtain legislative authorization
199 before seeking federal waivers to expand resource and
200 income eligibility for food assistance; creating s.
201 414.393, F.S.; requiring the department, upon federal
202 approval, to implement an asset verification service
203 to verify eligibility for food assistance; amending s.
204 445.004, F.S.; requiring CareerSource Florida, Inc.,
205 to include certain data relating to the performance
206 outcomes of local workforce development boards and
207 associated pilot programs in an annual report to the
208 Governor and Legislature; providing legislative
209 findings; providing definitions; requiring
210 CareerSource Florida, Inc., to contract with a vendor
211 to develop a pilot program to increase employment
212 among certain persons receiving temporary cash
213 assistance by a specified date; providing criteria for

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214 | selecting a vendor; providing criteria for selecting
215 | local workforce boards to conduct the pilot program;
216 | requiring CareerSource Florida, Inc., to submit a
217 | comprehensive report on the outcome of the pilot
218 | program to the Governor and Legislature by a specified
219 | date; providing an

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