

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Eagle offered the following:

Amendment

Remove lines 81-234 and insert:

food assistance consistent with federal regulations.

(c) If an individual in a family receiving temporary cash assistance fails to engage in work activities required in accordance with s. 445.024, the following penalties shall apply:

~~(a)~~1. First noncompliance:

a. Temporary cash assistance shall be terminated for the family for a minimum of 1 month ~~10 days~~ or until the individual who failed to comply does so, whichever is later. Upon meeting this requirement, temporary cash assistance shall be reinstated

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14 to the date of compliance or the first day of the month
15 following the penalty period, whichever is later.

16 b. Temporary cash assistance for the minor child or
17 children in a family may be continued for the first month of the
18 penalty period through a protective payee as specified in
19 subsection (2).

20 2. Second noncompliance:

21 a. Temporary cash assistance shall be terminated for the
22 family for 3 months ~~1 month~~ or until the individual who failed
23 to comply does so, whichever is later. The individual shall be
24 required to comply with the required work activity upon
25 completion of the 3-month penalty period before reinstatement of
26 temporary cash assistance. Upon meeting this requirement,
27 temporary cash assistance shall be reinstated to the date of
28 compliance or the first day of the month following the penalty
29 period, whichever is later.

30 b. Temporary cash assistance for the minor child or
31 children in a family may be continued for the first 3 months of
32 the penalty period through a protective payee as specified in
33 subsection (2).

34 3. Third noncompliance:

35 a. Temporary cash assistance shall be terminated for the
36 family for ~~6~~ 3 months or until the individual who failed to
37 comply does so, whichever is later. The individual shall be
38 required to comply with the required work activity upon

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39 completion of the 6-month ~~3-month~~ penalty period, before
40 reinstatement of temporary cash assistance. Upon meeting this
41 requirement, temporary cash assistance shall be reinstated to
42 the date of compliance or the first day of the month following
43 the penalty period, whichever is later.

44 b. Temporary cash assistance for the minor child or
45 children in a family may be continued for the first 6 months of
46 the penalty period through a protective payee as specified in
47 subsection (2).

48 4. Fourth noncompliance:

49 a. Temporary cash assistance shall be terminated for the
50 family for 12 months or until the individual who failed to
51 comply does so, whichever is later. The individual shall be
52 required to comply with the required work activity upon
53 completion of the 12-month penalty period and reapply before
54 reinstatement of temporary cash assistance. Upon meeting this
55 requirement, temporary cash assistance shall be reinstated to
56 the first day of the month following the penalty period.

57 b. Temporary cash assistance for the minor child or
58 children in a family may be continued for the first 12 months of
59 the penalty period through a protective payee as specified in
60 subsection (2).

61 5. The sanctions imposed under subparagraphs 1.-4. do not
62 prohibit a participant from complying with the work activity

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63 requirements during the penalty periods imposed by this
64 paragraph.

65 (d)-(b) If a participant receiving temporary cash
66 assistance who is otherwise exempted from noncompliance
67 penalties fails to comply with the alternative requirement plan
68 required in accordance with this section, the penalties provided
69 in paragraph (c) -(a) shall apply.

70 (e) When a participant is sanctioned for noncompliance
71 with this section, the department shall refer the participant to
72 appropriate free and low-cost community services, including food
73 banks.

74
75 If a participant fully complies with work activity requirements
76 for at least 6 months, the participant shall be reinstated as
77 being in full compliance with program requirements for purpose
78 of sanctions imposed under this section.

79 (2) CONTINUATION OF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE FOR
80 CHILDREN; PROTECTIVE PAYEES.—

81 (a) Upon ~~the second or third occurrence of noncompliance~~
82 with work requirements, subject to the limitations in paragraph
83 (1)(c), temporary cash assistance and food assistance for the
84 minor child or children in a family who are under age 16 may be
85 continued. Any such payments must be made through a protective
86 payee or, in the case of food assistance, through an authorized
87 representative. Under no circumstances shall temporary cash

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88 assistance or food assistance be paid to an individual who has
89 failed to comply with program requirements.

90 Section 2. Subsections (3) through (7) of section 445.024,
91 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through (8),
92 respectively, and a new subsection (3) and subsections (9),
93 (10), and (11) are added to that section to read:

94 445.024 Work requirements.—

95 (3) WORK PLAN AGREEMENT.—For each individual who is not
96 otherwise exempt from work activity requirements, the
97 department, in cooperation with CareerSource Florida, Inc., and
98 the Department of Children and Families, must:

99 (a) Inform the participant, in plain language, and require
100 the participant to agree in writing to:

101 1. What is expected of the participant to continue to
102 receive temporary cash assistance benefits.

103 2. Under what circumstances the participant would be
104 sanctioned for noncompliance and what constitutes good cause for
105 noncompliance.

106 3. Potential penalties for noncompliance with the work
107 requirements in s. 414.065, including how long benefits would be
108 unavailable to the participant.

109 (b) Develop an individual responsibility plan for each
110 participant.

111 1. The individual responsibility plan shall be developed
112 jointly by the participant and the participant's case manager

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113 pursuant to an initial assessment of, at a minimum, the
114 participant's skills, prior work experience, employability, and
115 barriers to employment.

116 2. The individual responsibility plan shall seek to move
117 the participant towards self-sufficiency and shall:

118 a. Establish employment goals and a plan for moving the
119 participant into unsubsidized employment.

120 b. Place the participant into the highest level of
121 employment he or she is capable of and increase the
122 participant's work responsibilities and amount of work over
123 time.

124 c. Clearly state in sufficient detail the participant's
125 obligations, work activity requirements, and any services the
126 local workforce development board will provide to enable the
127 participant to satisfy his or her obligations and work activity
128 requirements, including, but not limited to, child care and
129 transportation, when available.

130 d. Be specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable in
131 response to the realities of any barriers to compliance with
132 work activity requirements that the participant faces,
133 including, but not limited to, substance abuse, mental illness,
134 physical or mental disability, domestic violence, a criminal
135 record affecting employment, significant job-skill or soft-skill
136 deficiencies, and lack of child care, stable housing, or
137 transportation.

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138 (b) Work with the participant to develop strategies to
139 assist the participant in overcoming any barriers to compliance
140 with the work requirements in s. 414.065.

141 (c) Adopt rules to implement this subsection.

142 (9) SANCTIONS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH WORK REQUIREMENTS.—

143 (a) The department shall establish uniform standards for
144 compliance with work activity requirements and submitting
145 requests for sanctions for noncompliance pursuant to s. 414.065
146 to the Department of Children and Families.

147 (b) The department shall ensure that all local workforce
148 development boards uniformly implement sanctions for
149 noncompliance with work activity requirements and do not
150 sanction a participant who is temporarily unable to meet work
151 activity requirements due to circumstances beyond his or her
152 control.

153 (c) When requesting that the Department of Children and
154 Families sanction an individual who has failed to engage in work
155 activities required for food assistance under this section, the
156 department or local

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