

## **Public Assistance Eligibility; Child Care Subsidy; Food Assistance; Employment and Training Program; HB 2094**

**HB 2094** continues the existing statutory requirement that parents cooperate with child support services administered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) as a condition of receiving a child care subsidy and maintains the periods of ineligibility for a child care subsidy for non-cooperation. The bill requires the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary), or the Secretary's designee, to review a parent's child support compliance at certain specified times. The bill also amends law pertaining to eligibility requirements for the food assistance program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP) to require work registrants ages 50 through 59 without dependents who are not exempt under federal law to participate in an employment and training program.

The bill also makes technical amendments to remove duplicative language defining "non-cooperation" and to replace references to "child care benefits" with "child care subsidy" in continuing law that governs the assignment of support rights to the Secretary by applicants and recipients of a child care subsidy when cooperating with child support services.

### ***Non-cooperation with Child Support Services; Child Care Subsidy Disqualification***

#### *Timing of Child Support Compliance Reviews*

The bill requires the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, to review the child support compliance of parents applying for or receiving a child care subsidy, upon application for a child care subsidy, after 12 months of continuous eligibility for the subsidy and following such 12 months of continuous eligibility when the Secretary renews or redetermines a parent's eligibility for the subsidy.

#### *Periods of Ineligibility*

The periods of ineligibility for a child care subsidy for a parent's failure to comply with child support services are the same as in current law, with an additional condition that non-compliance reviews occur at the specific times outlined in the bill.

The periods of ineligibility for a child care subsidy for non-compliance with child support services in continuing law are:

- First penalty, three months and cooperation with child support services prior to regaining eligibility;
- Second penalty, six months and cooperation with child support services prior to regaining eligibility;
- Third penalty, one year and cooperation with child support services prior to regaining eligibility; and
- Fourth penalty, ten years.

## ***Employment and Training Requirements for Food Assistance***

The bill amends law pertaining to eligibility requirements for SNAP. The bill requires DCF to assign work registrants ages 50 through 59 without dependents who are not exempt under 7 USC § 2015(d)(2) to an employment and training program as a condition of participation in SNAP. Under current law, only able-bodied adults ages 18 through 49 without dependents and individuals who are not employed at least 30 hours per week are required to participate in an employment and training program to receive SNAP benefits.

[*Note:* 7 USC § 2015(d)(2) is a federal law that exempts the following work registrants between the ages of 16 and 59 from a work requirement:

- An individual currently subject to and complying with a work registration requirement under another federal program or the federal-state unemployment compensation system;
- A parent or other member of a household with responsibility for the care of a dependent child under six years of age or of an incapacitated person;
- A *bona fide* student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education (except that any such person enrolled in an institution of higher education must meet additional requirements);
- A regular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program;
- An individual employed a minimum of 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings that equal the federal minimum hourly rate, multiplied by 30 hours; or
- A person between the ages of 16 and 18 who is not a head of a household or who is attending school, or enrolled in an employment training program, on at least a half-time basis.]