

HCS HB 73 & 47 -- RESTRICTIONS ON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM (Brandom)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on General Laws

This substitute requires the Department of Social Services to develop a program to screen and test each work-eligible applicant for or work-eligible recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program benefits who the department has reasonable suspicion to believe, based on the screening, engages in the illegal use of controlled substances. The department cannot discriminate against any applicant or recipient on the basis of race or ethnicity. An applicant or recipient who tested positive for the illegal use of a controlled substance which has not been prescribed by a licensed health care provider must, after an administrative hearing by the department, be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for one year from the date of the administrative hearing decision and must be referred to an appropriate substance abuse treatment program approved by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Mental Health. Any member of a household which includes a person who has been declared ineligible for TANF benefits, if otherwise eligible, will continue to receive benefits as protective or vendor payments to a third-party payee.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Up to \$1,904,632 in FY 2012, Up to \$2,204,202 in FY 2013, and Up to \$2,296,674 in FY 2014. No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.