

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 1422
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Short Title: Cabarrus Workfare Law Change.

(Local)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to: Children & Human Resources.

May 28, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXTEND AND IMPROVE THE CABARRUS COUNTY WORK OVER
WELFARE PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 368 of the 1995 Session Laws, as rewritten by Section
24.16A of Chapter 18 of the 1995 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

"Section 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Department of ~~Human~~
~~Resources~~ Health and Human Services shall designate Cabarrus County as a pilot county
for the purpose of conducting a demonstration Workfare Program for certain ~~Aid to~~
~~Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)~~ Work First and Food Stamp recipients.
Immediately upon the ratification of this act, the Department shall seek all federal
waivers necessary to allow this demonstration program. To the extent that this act or the
program established pursuant to it conflicts with any State law, the program supersedes
that law.

Sec. 2. ~~(a)~~ The Cabarrus County demonstration Workfare Program for certain
~~AFDC~~ Work First and Food Stamp recipients shall:

(1) Provide job opportunities to all able-bodied ~~AFDC~~ Work First and Food
Stamp recipients ~~who:~~

a. ~~Are not eligible for the JOBS program;~~

- 1 b. ~~Are between the ages of 18 and 64;~~
2 e. ~~Are not caring for a child under one year of age;~~
3 d. ~~Are working less than 30 hours per week; and~~
4 e. ~~Are not full-time high school students or the equivalent;~~ are required
5 to participate in the Work First employment program.
6 (2) Create job opportunities in the public, the private, nonprofit, and the
7 private, for-profit sector, primarily in the human services areas by
8 allowing Cabarrus County to use grant diversions, consisting of the
9 ~~AFDC-Work First~~ benefits and the cash value of Food Stamps that
10 would be paid to otherwise eligible recipients to match employer funds,
11 to subsidize the employment of these recipients. Human service area
12 jobs will meet such socially necessary needs as day care work, nursing
13 home aide work, and in-home aide work;
14 (3) Allow wages paid to these recipients, which contain grant-diverted
15 funds, to be exempt from income for purposes of determining eligibility
16 for assistance;
17 (4) Structure payment of wages to these recipients such that they will be
18 considered income, in order to make recipients eligible for the federal
19 earned income tax credit;
20 (5) Create work experience opportunities in the private sector more
21 realistically to reflect the world of work;
22 (6) Require these recipients to participate in the development of an
23 opportunity contract, outlining the responsibilities of the recipient and
24 agency, as well as the incentives for compliance and the sanctions for
25 noncompliance;
26 (7) Require all these recipients who participate in the program to pursue and
27 accept employment, full or part time, subsidized or unsubsidized, as a
28 condition for continued eligibility for ~~AFDC-Work First~~ and Food Stamp
29 assistance;
30 (8) Require job search training of all participants;
31 (9) Require monitored job search of all participants until employment is
32 found or until other work activities of up to 40 hours per week are in
33 place;
34 (10) Provide child care by allowing Cabarrus County to use grant diversions,
35 consisting of the ~~Family Support Act~~ child day care subsidies that would
36 be paid to otherwise eligible recipients, and transportation as required;
37 (11) Create a positive work incentive by providing wage incentives to
38 participants who are in compliance with the program, equal to the first
39 thirty dollars (\$30.00) and one-third of the remainder of monthly gross
40 income for a period of up to two years;
41 (12) Provide enhanced Food Stamp benefits after participants are employed
42 and are in program compliance by using the thirty dollar (\$30.00) and
43 one-third of the remainder wage incentive as an income exemption;

1 (13) ~~Provide time-limited sanctions, or withholding of benefits for the adult~~
2 ~~members of the household of all AFDC and Food Stamp benefits for~~
3 ~~noncompliance, beginning with the first sanction period equal to the~~
4 ~~time necessary to come into compliance, second sanction period—four~~
5 ~~months, third and subsequent sanctions—eight months; a pay-for~~
6 ~~performance system that withholds the entire Work First benefits for the~~
7 ~~adult members of the household for the month following any month in~~
8 ~~which it fails to comply with Work First participation requirements and~~
9 ~~restores these benefits for the month following any month in which it~~
10 ~~successfully complies with Work First participation requirements;~~

11 (14) Provide automatic Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant adults
12 of sanctioned families by transferring the children administratively to
13 the Medicaid for Indigent Children (MIC) Program and by transferring
14 the pregnant adults administratively to the Medicaid for Pregnant
15 Women (MPW) Program.

16 (b) ~~An adjunct program to the demonstration program prescribed in subsection (a)~~
17 ~~of this section shall:~~

18 (1) ~~Require AFDC recipients who are mandated JOBS participants to~~
19 ~~pursue and accept employment, full or part time, subsidized or~~
20 ~~unsubsidized, as part of their job plan. The maximum number of hours~~
21 ~~delegated to job activities, including employment, shall be 40 hours per~~
22 ~~week. AFDC recipients who are JOBS eligible and who are caring for~~
23 ~~children under five years of age shall, in this program, not be limited to~~
24 ~~20 hours per week;~~

25 (2) ~~Require AFDC recipients who are potential JOBS participants to engage~~
26 ~~in job search until either employment is found or they become JOBS~~
27 ~~eligible; and~~

28 (3) ~~Ensure that sanctions for noncompliance and provision of Medicaid~~
29 ~~coverage shall be as provided in subdivisions (13) and (14) of~~
30 ~~subsection (a) of this section.~~

31 Sec. 3. This act shall be funded by Cabarrus County using the grant diversions
32 and administrative transfers prescribed in Section 2 of this act, together with federal and
33 State administrative funding allocated to Cabarrus County for the public assistance ~~and~~
34 JOBS programs.

35 ~~Sec. 4. The Department of Human Resources shall evaluate the Cabarrus~~
36 ~~County Demonstration Project and report to the General Assembly on or before May~~
37 ~~1, 1998.~~

38 ~~Sec. 5-4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995 and shall expire on January~~
39 ~~1, 1999. July 1, 2001.~~"

40 Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.