



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL



ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 276 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Joe Hune
Committee: Families, Seniors and Human Services

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to include community service within work participation program activities. The bill also would refer to the PATH program instead of the JET (Jobs, Education, and Training) program (which was replaced by PATH effective January 1, 2013.) "PATH program" would mean the "Path: Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. Work Partnership Program".

The Act requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and administer the Family Independence Program (FIP) to provide temporary assistance to family who are making efforts to achieve independence. The PATH program is a work participation program for applicants and recipients of FIP assistance.

Generally, when the DHS determines that an individual is eligible to receive FIP assistance, it must determine whether he or she is eligible to participate or exempt from participating in the work participation program. An individual is exempt he or she meets certain criteria based on age, medical condition, and related factors.

The DHS must develop, and set forth in a recipient's family self-sufficiency plan, the particular activities the recipient is required or authorized to participate in, the number of hours of work required for, and other details of, the PATH program. The bill would include community service as an activity.

MCL 400.57f

Legislative Analyst: Glenn Steffens

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the State. Based on Federal regulations and current DHS policy, community service can be included as a component of work participation requirements and a family self-sufficiency plan. Sanctions are in place for families that do not comply with their work participation requirements. As the Act allows the DHS some flexibility in determining which clients are exempt from PATH program participation, the number or portion of additional families that would be required to participate in community service is not known.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

Date Completed: 6-17-13

Fiscal Analyst: Frances Carley