



*Written Testimony for the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Submitted by the Department of Social Services
March 3, 2016*

S.B. No. 314 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

It appears that this bill attempts to change the eligibility cap for a family seeking Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) to gross earnings less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). In addition, this bill would require the Department to pay a one-time benefit of \$1,000 to “any member of a family leaving assistance” at the end of (1) the 21-month benefit period or (2) the 60-month limit “who was not employed during the period such family received assistance”

The Department appreciates the bill’s goal to extend opportunities for families to remain on TFA while earnings are increased to 150 percent of the FPL. However, increasing the income guidelines to 150 percent of FPL for working TFA families will result in a substantial increase in monthly TFA expenditures.

Additionally, a new one-time incentive payment of \$1,000 contained in the bill will also create an additional expenditure on the TFA account.

While the Department understands the goals of this legislation, until we have the information necessary to determine whether measures like these will actually result in increased employability, we cannot support this bill at this time. We are happy to meet with the proponents of this bill however to discuss ways to address this issue.