

5924-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators West and Oke)

Brief Title: Conditioning general assistance eligibility for persons with drug or alcohol addiction on attendance at a certified drug and alcohol treatment program.

SB 5924-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that recipients of general assistance-unemployable who are also chemically dependent are subject to the following rules as a condition of eligibility: (1) Recipients shall be enrolled in a certified chemical dependency treatment program;

(2) recipients shall be entitled to receive benefits under this chapter while they are waiting for an available treatment slot;

(3) recipients shall be assigned a protective payee to prevent the diversion of cash assistance toward purchasing alcohol or other drugs until such time as they enter a treatment program;

(4) recipients shall cooperate in attending the assigned treatment program in order to retain eligibility;

(5) recipients shall be subject to periodic drug tests that shall be used by the department to determine if recipients are cooperating with assigned treatment options; and

(6) if recipients cooperate in attending treatment but continue to be chemically dependent after treatment ends, the department shall make a determination as to what treatment option is appropriate for the recipient. Recipients who are cooperating with the department in identifying and attending treatment options shall not have eligibility terminated.