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Short Title: Food Stamp Workfare.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 26, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE RECIPIENTS OF FOOD STAMPS TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKFARE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Effective October 1, 1995, Part 5 of Article 2 of Chapter 108A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 108A-52.1. Food Stamp Workfare.

(a) The General Assembly finds that all eligible food stamp recipients should participate in the work of the community while receiving assistance to:

(1) Introduce recipients to the work environment of their community so that they may gain work experience, which will lead to paid employment in the public or private sector;

(2) Enable recipients to return something of value to the community that is supporting them; and

(3) Act as a deterrent to abuse of the Food Stamp Program by those who could work but choose not to.

(b) Effective October 1, 1995, the Department of Human Resources shall ensure that all eligible food stamp recipients are available to participate in the work of their community by being available to work for no compensation at the discretion of and under the supervision of those public or private nonprofit agencies in their county of residence that the county department of social services has designated as 'employing

1 agencies', for as long as the recipients receive food stamps. The Department shall
2 ensure that all 100 counties participate. Local implementation of workfare shall allow
3 maximum flexibility, including the option:

4 (1) To operate workfare in any manner consistent with current United
5 States Department of Agriculture Workfare rules and the provisions of
6 this section; or

7 (2) To operate workfare through the Department of Human Resources and
8 the Employment Security Commission as a component of the
9 Employment and Training Program.

10 (c) For purposes of the work requirements of this section, current United States
11 Department of Agriculture Workfare rules on eligibility exemptions for work
12 requirements pursuant to this Article are modified as follows:

13 (1) The maximum age exemption threshold is 65 years of age;

14 (2) A parent or other household member who is responsible for the care of
15 a dependent child under five or an incapacitated person is exempt;
16 Provided that a parent or other household member who is responsible
17 for the care of a dependent child between the ages of five and twelve
18 may be exempt for good cause due to lack of adequate child care; and

19 (3) Full-time students are exempt.

20 (d) The Department shall ensure that the number of hours worked per month do
21 not exceed the number of hours produced by dividing the monthly value of the
22 recipient's food stamps by the appropriate minimum wage.

23 (e) The Department shall ensure that applicants for food stamps and recipients
24 currently receiving food stamps are notified of the work requirements established by
25 this section and shall also review procedures developed by local departments of social
26 services to ensure that all employing agencies operate fairly and in full cooperation with
27 the local department of social services."

28 Sec. 2. The Department shall immediately, as of the effective date of this
29 section, prepare and apply for any waiver from the federal government required to
30 implement Section 1 of this act. If, before the effective date of Section 1 of this act, the
31 federal government denies the waiver or has not accepted the waiver, then the
32 Department shall implement Section 1 of this act to the extent that implementation is
33 not inconsistent with any federal law.

34 Sec. 3. The State of North Carolina shall reimburse each county for any net
35 administrative cost to the county resulting from the implementation of workfare as
36 mandated by this act; Provided that, to be eligible for reimbursement, a county shall
37 operate workfare through the Department of Human Resources and the Employment
38 Security Commission as a component of the Employment and Training Program.

39 Sec. 4. Except for and subject to the conditions set forth in Section 2 of this
40 act, Section 1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 1995, and applies to food stamp
41 benefits issued beginning with the month following that date. The remainder of this act
42 is effective upon ratification.