

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 681****2017 Regular Session****Moreno**

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Eliminates restrictions on eligibility for certain public assistance for persons with prior drug convictions

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Delete proposed law stipulating that any person who is authorized to receive benefits pursuant to proposed law shall submit to routine drug testing to be administered by the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for operation by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of the following assistance programs:

- (1) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (successor to the Food Stamp Program), referred to hereafter as "SNAP".
- (2) The following cash assistance programs funded by the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, referred to hereafter collectively as "TANF cash assistance":
 - (a) The Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (cash assistance for low-income families with dependent children).
 - (b) The Kinship Care Subsidy Program (cash assistance for low-income kinship caregivers including grandparents, step-grandparents, and other adult relatives within the fifth degree of kinship who have legal custody or guardianship of a minor relative).

Proposed law retains present law and revises eligibility criteria for these programs as detailed below.

Present law provides that an individual convicted under federal or state law of any felony offense which involves the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance shall be ineligible for SNAP benefits and for TANF cash assistance benefits for a one-year period commencing on the date of conviction if he is not incarcerated, or from the date of release from incarceration if he is incarcerated. Proposed law repeals present law.

Pursuant to authorization provided in federal law (21 U.S.C. 862a), proposed law provides that all individuals domiciled in La. shall be exempt from the prohibition established in federal law on eligibility for SNAP benefits and for TANF cash assistance benefits based on prior drug convictions.

Effective October 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 46:233.3; Repeals R.S. 46:233.2 and 237(D))