

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senate Bill Number 151

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Carson Cowles

House Committee: _____

Authored by: Carson Cowles

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Delegation: Bozeman

Senate: _____

Governor: _____

Referred to Committee: Senate Health & Human Services Committee

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "THE REDUCTION OF DEPENDENTS ON WELFARE"

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3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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5 **Section 1 Intent:** The intent of this bill is to reduce the number of people on welfare that truly
6 do not need it to survive. This bill would limit the time a person could receive financial help
7 from the state. This is intended only to affect people have no real need to rely on welfare
8 however they live off of what the state provides them.

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10 **Section 2 Plan:** The passage of the bill "The Reduction of Dependents on Welfare" will:

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12 A. Limit the amount of time an individual may receive any form of financial help from the
13 state to a maximum of one year. This would only apply to individuals that are classified as
14 Dependent With Out a Need. This would cut the number of people that abuse our welfare
15 system and who do not truly need to rely on the state for help.

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17 B. Individuals classified as Dependent With Out a Need would have all forms of funding
18 revoked from them and be flagged by the state as a welfare abuser. If an individual that had
19 their funding revoked should reapply to receive funding, they would be reviewed by the
20 new Welfare Abuse Agency.

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22 C. To be classified as Dependent With Out a Need, an individual must be unemployed by
23 choice, they may not have a severe injury, and they must not be dependent on another
24 person. If a person does not have a job and is/has not been looking for a job they would be
25 classified under this title. People with minor injuries that are not severe enough to restrict
26 them from leaving their home with out help would also be classified as Dependent With
27 Out a Need. People that have a drug or alcohol problem, who are not actively seeking help
28 or are not part of a rehabilitation group, or are not regularly attending that group would
29 classify.

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31 D. People that receive any form of help from the state would be subject to review and may
32 have there form of funds revoked.

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34 **Section 3 Funding:** Funding would be provided by the money saved by the state by removing
35 these unnecessary dependents. The excess funding saved would be transferred to the general
36 fund to help better the state.

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38 **Section 4 Enforcement:** An agency within the welfare department would be created to police
39 recipients of welfare and decide whether they are eligible to continue receiving funds. This
40 agency would be named the Welfare Abuse Agency, and would perform case studies of people
41 and travel to review, in person, the actual state of the welfare dependent.

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43 **Section 5 Effective Date:** This bill should be enacted upon passage. The new Welfare Abuse
44 Agency shall be established and organized within the state welfare department upon passage of
45 this bill.

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