

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

_____ Bill Number _____

Legislative Action:

House Committee: _____

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Senate: _____

Governor: _____

Introduced By: Chanel Mumford

Authored By: Chanel Mumford

Delegation:

Referred to Committee: _____

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF
2 DEPENDANTS ON WELFARE"

3 **SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS:**

4 A. Welfare: financial aid and other benefits for people who are unemployed, below a specific
5 income level, or otherwise requiring assistance, especially when provided by a government
6 agency or program.

7 B. Dependant: Relying on another for support

8 C. Financial help: Receiving money from another that is needed in order for basic needs.

9 **SECTION 2 INTENT:** The intent of this bill is to limit the number of people who are
10 currently on welfare that do not really need it to survive. This bill will create a time limit that
11 a person can be solely dependant and receive financial help from the state. This will only
12 affect those who have no real need to rely on welfare, however they are still receiving funds
13 from the state.

14 **SECTION 3 PLAN:** The reduction of welfare will:

15 A. Limit the amount of time a person can be dependant on welfare or receive any form of
16 financial help from the state to a maximum of 2 years. This time limit would only apply to
17 those who are considered as Dependant Without A Need. This time limit would decrease the
18 number of people who are currently abusing Montana's welfare program and do not actually
19 need it to survive.

20 B. Those who are considered Dependant Without A Need will have all fundings removed
21 from them and the state will also be noted that these people have abused the system. If a
22 person that has been noted as abusing the welfare program attempts to reapply to welfare,
23 they will be evaluated by the Welfare Abuse Agency.

24 C. To be considered Dependant Without A Need, a person must be unemployed by choice, no
25 severe injuries, and not dependant on another person. If a person is not employed and is
26 making no attempt to become employed they will be considered Dependant Without A Need.
27 Injuries that are considered severe consist of those that limit those from leaving their home
28 without help. Another restriction is drug or alcohol problems. People with this condition who
29 are not seeking help or attending problems to eliminate their addiction will also be considered
30 Dependant Without A Need.

31 **SECTION 4 FUNDING:** No additional funding will be needed for this bill. The funds that
32 are saved from those who are not truly dependant will go into the General State Fund.

33 **SECTION 5 ENFORCEMENT:** A new department will be created within the current
34 welfare department to regulate applications and to decide weather a current participant is still
35 eligible to receive financial support from the state. They will perform case studies and do in
36 person interviews to see the actual state of the person. These employees will be those who are
37 currently employed by the state and working for the welfare program.

38 **SECTION 6 EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage this bill will go into effect the next fiscal
39 year in order to set up the new welfare department.