

HB 1603 - DIGEST

Revises provisions relating to the temporary assistance for needy families program, the pregnant women assistance program, and state family assistance.

Requires the department of social and health services to: (1) Submit to the office of financial management, the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force, and the legislature, a revised comprehensive study of living costs, that must include recommendations for temporary assistance for needy families grant standards as a percentage of need;

(2) Every four years, adjust the estimated base costs to a consumer for household budget items used in the study, in addition to annual adjustments for inflation;

(3) Every ten years, submit a redesigned and updated comprehensive study to the office of financial management, the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force, and the legislature; and

(4) When completing each ten-year redesign, adjust study parameters, including cost categories and geographic boundaries, as necessary.

Prohibits the department from requiring an applicant for temporary assistance for needy families to attend a WorkFirst orientation as a condition of eligibility.