

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: Edward H. Redd

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to the Department of Workforce Services' General Assistance program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ establishes that the first \$250,000 of reimbursements to the Department of Workforce Services collected in a fiscal year for General Assistance paid to a recipient while the recipient is awaiting the determination of federal Supplemental Security Income may be used by the department for the General Assistance program;

- ▶ makes funding for General Assistance nonlapsing; and

- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

35A-3-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 29

63J-1-602.2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 338

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

30 Section 1. Section **35A-3-401** is amended to read:

31 **35A-3-401. General Assistance.**

32 (1) (a) The department may provide General Assistance [~~may be provided~~] to
33 individuals who are:

34 (i) not receiving cash assistance under Part 3, Family Employment Program, or
35 Supplemental Security Income~~[-]~~; and [~~who are~~]

36 (ii) unemployable according to standards established by the department.

37 (b) (i) General Assistance [~~may be provided by~~] described in Subsection (1)(a) may
38 include payment in cash or in kind.

39 (ii) The [~~office~~] department may provide General Assistance up to an amount [~~less~~]
40 that is no more than the existing payment level for an otherwise similarly situated [~~client of~~]
41 recipient receiving cash assistance under Part 3, Family Employment Program.

42 (iii) Funding for General Assistance is nonlapsing.

43 (c) The [~~office~~] department shall establish asset limitations for a General Assistance
44 [~~clients~~] applicant.

45 (d) (i) General Assistance may be granted to meet special nonrecurrent needs of an
46 applicant for the federal Supplemental Security Income [~~program~~] for the Aged, Blind, and
47 Disabled program provided under 20 C.F.R. Sec. 416, if the applicant agrees to reimburse the
48 [~~division~~] department for assistance advanced to the applicant while awaiting the determination
49 of eligibility by the Social Security Administration.

50 (ii) (A) Reimbursements to the department described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) up to and
51 including \$250,000 collected in a fiscal year shall be used by the department to administer the
52 General Assistance program and provide General Assistance to eligible applicants.

53 (B) Reimbursements to the department described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) over \$250,000
54 collected in a fiscal year shall be deposited into the General Fund.

55 [~~(i)~~] (iii) General Assistance payments may not be made to a [~~current client of~~]
56 recipient currently receiving:

57 (A) cash assistance; or

58 (B) Supplemental Security Income.

59 (e) (i) General Assistance may be used for the reasonable cost of burial for a [client,
60 recipient if heirs or relatives are not financially able to assume this expense.

61 (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(e)(i), if the body of a person is unclaimed, Section
62 53B-17-301 applies.

63 (iii) The department shall fix the cost of a reasonable burial and conditions under
64 which burial expenditures may be made.

65 (2) The [division] department may cooperate with any governmental unit or agency, or
66 any private nonprofit agency, in establishing work projects to provide employment for
67 employable persons.

68 Section 2. Section 63J-1-602.2 is amended to read:

69 **63J-1-602.2. List of nonlapsing funds and accounts -- Title 31 through Title 45.**

70 (1) Appropriations from the Technology Development Restricted Account created in
71 Section 31A-3-104.

72 (2) Appropriations from the Criminal Background Check Restricted Account created in
73 Section 31A-3-105.

74 (3) Appropriations from the Captive Insurance Restricted Account created in Section
75 31A-3-304, except to the extent that Section 31A-3-304 makes the money received under that
76 section free revenue.

77 (4) Appropriations from the Title Licensee Enforcement Restricted Account created in
78 Section 31A-23a-415.

79 (5) Appropriations from the Health Insurance Actuarial Review Restricted Account
80 created in Section 31A-30-115.

81 (6) Appropriations from the Insurance Fraud Investigation Restricted Account created
82 in Section 31A-31-108.

83 (7) Appropriations from the Underage Drinking Prevention Media and Education
84 Campaign Restricted Account created in Section 32B-2-306.

85 (8) Funding for the General Assistance program administered by the Department of

86 Workforce Services, as provided in Section [35A-3-401](#).

87 [~~8~~] (9) The Youth Development Organization Restricted Account created in Section
88 [35A-8-1903](#).

89 [~~9~~] (10) The Youth Character Organization Restricted Account created in Section
90 [35A-8-2003](#).

91 [~~10~~] (11) Funding for a new program or agency that is designated as nonlapsing under
92 Section [36-24-101](#).

93 [~~11~~] (12) Appropriations from the Oil and Gas Conservation Account created in
94 Section [40-6-14.5](#).

95 [~~12~~] (13) Appropriations from the Electronic Payment Fee Restricted Account
96 created by Section [41-1a-121](#) to the Motor Vehicle Division.

97 [~~13~~] (14) Funds available to the Tax Commission under Section [41-1a-1201](#) for the:

98 (a) purchase and distribution of license plates and decals; and

99 (b) administration and enforcement of motor vehicle registration requirements.