

**Senator Luz Escamilla** proposes the following substitute bill:

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHANGES**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla**

House Sponsor: Edward H. Redd

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ establishes that reimbursements to the Department of Workforce Services 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



26 63J-1-602.2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 338



27  
28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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

30 **35A-3-401. General Assistance.**

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

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

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

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

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

41 (iii) Funding for General Assistance is nonlapsing.

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

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

49 (ii) All reimbursements to the department described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) shall be  
50 used by the department to administer the General Assistance program and provide General  
51 Assistance to eligible applicants.

52 [~~(ii)~~] (iii) General Assistance payments may not be made to a [~~current client of~~]  
53 recipient currently receiving:

54 (A) cash assistance; or

55 (B) Supplemental Security Income.

56 (e) (i) General Assistance may be used for the reasonable cost of burial for a [~~client,~~]

57 recipient if heirs or relatives are not financially able to assume this expense.

58 (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(e)(i), if the body of a person is unclaimed, Section  
59 [53B-17-301](#) applies.

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

62 (2) The [~~division~~] department may cooperate with any governmental unit or agency, or  
63 any private nonprofit agency<sub>2</sub> in establishing work projects to provide employment for  
64 employable persons.

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

66 **63J-1-602.2. List of nonlapsing funds and accounts -- Title 31 through Title 45.**

67 (1) Appropriations from the Technology Development Restricted Account created in  
68 Section [31A-3-104](#).

69 (2) Appropriations from the Criminal Background Check Restricted Account created in  
70 Section [31A-3-105](#).

71 (3) Appropriations from the Captive Insurance Restricted Account created in Section  
72 [31A-3-304](#), except to the extent that Section [31A-3-304](#) makes the money received under that  
73 section free revenue.

74 (4) Appropriations from the Title Licensee Enforcement Restricted Account created in  
75 Section [31A-23a-415](#).

76 (5) Appropriations from the Health Insurance Actuarial Review Restricted Account  
77 created in Section [31A-30-115](#).

78 (6) Appropriations from the Insurance Fraud Investigation Restricted Account created  
79 in Section [31A-31-108](#).

80 (7) Appropriations from the Underage Drinking Prevention Media and Education  
81 Campaign Restricted Account created in Section [32B-2-306](#).

82 (8) Funding for the General Assistance program administered by the Department of  
83 Workforce Services, as provided in Section [35A-3-401](#).

84 [~~(8)~~] (9) The Youth Development Organization Restricted Account created in Section  
85 [35A-8-1903](#).

86 [~~(9)~~] (10) The Youth Character Organization Restricted Account created in Section  
87 [35A-8-2003](#).

88            [~~(10)~~] (11) Funding for a new program or agency that is designated as nonlapsing under  
89 Section [36-24-101](#).

90            [~~(11)~~] (12) Appropriations from the Oil and Gas Conservation Account created in  
91 Section [40-6-14.5](#).

92            [~~(12)~~] (13) Appropriations from the Electronic Payment Fee Restricted Account  
93 created by Section [41-1a-121](#) to the Motor Vehicle Division.

94            [~~(13)~~] (14) Funds available to the Tax Commission under Section [41-1a-1201](#) for the:

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

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