

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

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to the Employment Development Division's General Assistance program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates an expendable special revenue fund called the "General Assistance Fund";
- ▶ establishes that the fund consists of reimbursements to the state for General Assistance advanced to an applicant while awaiting the determination of federal Supplemental Security Income;
- ▶ requires that money in the fund be used by the division for the General Assistance program; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:



26 [35A-3-401](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 29

27 ENACTS:

28 [35A-3-403](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

29

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

31 Section 1. Section [35A-3-401](#) is amended to read:

32 **[35A-3-401. General Assistance.](#)**

33 (1) (a) General Assistance may be provided to individuals who are not receiving cash
34 assistance under Part 3, Family Employment Program, or Supplemental Security Income, and
35 who are unemployable according to standards established by the department.

36 (b) (i) General Assistance may be provided by payment in cash or in kind.

37 (ii) The office may provide an amount less than the existing payment level for an
38 otherwise similarly situated client of cash assistance under Part 3, Family Employment
39 Program.

40 (c) The office shall establish asset limitations for General Assistance clients.

41 (d) (i) General Assistance may be granted to meet special nonrecurrent needs of an
42 applicant for the federal Supplemental Security Income program, if the applicant agrees to
43 reimburse the ~~[division]~~ state for assistance advanced while awaiting the determination of
44 eligibility by the Social Security Administration.

45 (ii) All reimbursements to the state for General Assistance advanced while awaiting the
46 determination of an applicant's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income, as described in
47 Subsection (1)(d)(i), shall be deposited into the General Assistance Fund created in Section
48 [35A-3-403.](#)

49 ~~[(†)]~~ (iii) General Assistance payments may not be made to a current client of cash
50 assistance or Supplemental Security Income.

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

53 (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(e)(i), if the body of a person is unclaimed, Section
54 [53B-17-301](#) applies.

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

57 (2) The division may cooperate with any governmental unit or agency, or any private
58 nonprofit agency in establishing work projects to provide employment for employable persons.

59 Section 2. Section **35A-3-403** is enacted to read:

60 **35A-3-403. General Assistance Fund.**

61 (1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund called the "General Assistance
62 Fund."

63 (2) As described in Subsection [35A-3-401\(1\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#), the fund consists of the
64 reimbursements received by the state for General Assistance advanced to applicants of the
65 federal Supplemental Security Income program.

66 (3) Money in the fund shall be used by the division to administer the General
67 Assistance program and provide General Assistance to eligible applicants.