



Bob Bennett

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 28

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Grendell, Lawrence

BILL SUMMARY

- Denies cash assistance under the Ohio Works First Program to an individual whose parental rights to a child have been permanently terminated because of abuse or neglect or who has been convicted of a criminal offense relating to the abuse or neglect of a child that resulted in the child's death.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The Ohio Works First Program is an income maintenance program for families with or expecting a child. In return for monthly cash assistance, adults and minor heads of household participating in the program are required to satisfy requirements, including work and training requirements, designed to lead to self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. The amount of cash assistance an assistance group receives under Ohio Works First depends in part on the number of individuals included in the group.

The bill provides that an individual is ineligible to receive cash assistance under Ohio Works First if the individual (1) has had parental rights to a child permanently terminated by order of a juvenile court in this state or a similar proceeding in another state because the child has been adjudicated an abused or neglected child or (2) has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense relating to the abuse or neglect of a child that resulted in the death of that child.

An individual ineligible to receive cash assistance under the bill is nonetheless eligible to participate in Ohio Works First if the individual meets the eligibility requirements. This means the individual may participate in work activities, developmental activities, and alternative work activities in accordance with a self-sufficiency contract the individual enters into with a county department of human services and obtain other services, such as referrals for family planning services.

Members of an assistance group do not lose eligibility for cash assistance under Ohio Works First if another member loses eligibility under the bill. The amount of cash assistance the group is to receive is the amount the group would receive if the ineligible member was not a member, except that member's income must be considered in determining the amount of cash assistance in the manner it would be considered if the member was eligible for cash assistance. This means, for example, that an assistance group with three members would be treated as a two-member assistance group and receive a maximum \$296 monthly cash assistance payment, rather than the \$362 maximum for a three-member assistance group; a loss of \$66. A county department of human services is required to designate a representative payee for purposes of receiving and distributing cash assistance to the assistance group.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-20-99	p. 89

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