

House Study Bill 152

Bill Text

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1 1 Section 1. Section [239B.2](#), subsection 4, Code 1999, is
1 2 amended to read as follows:
1 3 4. WRITTEN STATEMENT FAMILY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT.
1 4 a. The department may require an applicant family to
1 5 commit to the initial actions the applicant family will take
1 6 to achieve self-sufficiency as contained in a signed, written
1 7 statement. An applicant family which fails to commit to the
1 8 actions as contained in the written statement shall be denied
1 9 eligibility for the family investment program. If the
1 10 applicant family becomes a participant family, the family's
1 11 written statement may be replaced by, incorporated within, or
1 12 become the family investment agreement for that family.
1 13 b. Unless exempt as provided in section 239B.8, a
1 14 participant family which is eligible for the program shall
1 15 continue to comply with the provisions of a written statement
1 16 which contains actions committed to by the family under
1 17 paragraph "a" or shall enter into a family investment
1 18 agreement with the department. A participant family must
1 19 comply with the provisions of the written statement or the
1 20 conditions in the agreement in order to retain eligibility. A
1 21 participant family which does not comply shall be deemed to
1 22 have chosen a limited benefit plan.
1 23 Sec. 2. Section [239B.3](#), subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
1 24 1999, is amended to read as follows:
1 25 b. For an eligibility decision involving an applicant
1 26 family with a specified relative, within thirty days of the
1 27 date of an application, the department shall

~~issue a~~

~~authorize~~

1 28 issuance of notice of the department's decision to the
1 29 specified relative.
1 30 Sec. 3. Section [239B.9](#), subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
1 31 1999, is amended to read as follows:
1 32 a. If a participant responsible for signing and fulfilling
1 33 the terms of a family investment agreement, as defined by the
1 34 director of human services in accordance with section 239B.8,
1 35 chooses not to sign or fulfill the terms of the agreement, the
2 1 participant's family, or the individual participant shall
2 2 enter into a limited benefit plan. Initial actions in a
2 3 written statement under section 239B.2, subsection 4, which
2 4 were committed to by a participant during the application
2 5 period and which commitment remains in effect, shall be
2 6 considered to be a term of the participant's family investment
2 7 agreement. A limited benefit plan shall apply for the period
2 8 of time specified in this section. The first month of the
2 9 limited benefit plan is the first month after the month in
2 10 which timely and adequate notice of the limited benefit plan
2 11 is given to the participant as defined by the director of
2 12 human services. A participant who is exempt from the JOBS
2 13 program but who volunteers for the program is not subject to
2 14 imposition of a limited benefit plan. The elements of a
2 15 limited benefit plan shall be specified in the department's
2 16 rules.
2 17 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 541A.6 COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL
2 18 REQUIREMENTS.

2 19 The administrator shall adopt rules for compliance with
2 20 federal individual development account requirements under the
2 21 federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
2 22 Reconciliation Act of 1996, } 103, as codified in 42 U.S.C. }
2 23 604(h), under the federal Assets for Independence Act, Pub. L.
2 24 No. 105-285, Title IV, or with any other federal individual
2 25 development account program requirements, as necessary for the
2 26 state to qualify to use federal temporary assistance for needy
2 27 families block grant funding or other available federal
2 28 funding for allocation to operating organizations. Any rules
2 29 adopted under this section shall not apply the federal
2 30 individual development account program requirements to an
2 31 operating organization which does not utilize federal funding
2 32 for the accounts with which it is connected or to an account
2 33 holder who does not receive temporary assistance for needy
2 34 families block grant or other federal funding.

2 35 EXPLANATION

3 1 This bill relates to welfare reform provisions involving
3 2 the family investment program (FIP) and individual development
3 3 accounts.

3 4 The amendments to the family investment program in Code
3 5 section 239B.2 authorize the department of human services to
3 6 require, as a condition of eligibility, a FIP applicant to
3 7 commit to initial steps the applicant will take to achieve
3 8 self-sufficiency in a signed, written statement. Failure to
3 9 commit to the initial steps results in denial of eligibility.
3 10 The statement may be required in addition to being
3 11 incorporated within, or becoming part of, the family
3 12 investment agreement. A FIP participant is required to comply
3 13 with the provisions of the written statement.

3 14 Code section 239B.3, relating to issuance of cash
3 15 assistance to FIP-eligible families with a specified relative,
3 16 is amended. Under current law, notice of the department's
3 17 eligibility decision must be issued within 30 days. Under the
3 18 bill, authorization for the notice must be issued within 30
3 19 days.

3 20 According to limited benefit plan provisions in Code
3 21 section 239B.9, a participant who does not sign or fulfill the
3 22 terms of a family investment agreement is subject to a limited
3 23 benefit plan. Under the bill, the provisions of the written
3 24 statement committed to during the application period and which
3 25 remain in effect, are to be considered to be a term of a
3 26 participant's family investment agreement.

3 27 New Code section 541A.6 requires the department of human
3 28 services to adopt rules for compliance with federal
3 29 requirements for individual development account programs as
3 30 necessary to qualify to utilize federal funding for allocation
3 31 to Iowa's individual development account operating
3 32 organizations. The bill refers to specific federal temporary
3 33 assistance for needy families (TANF) block grant provisions
3 34 for individual development accounts, and to the federal Assets
3 35 for Independence Act, and to general federal provisions for
4 1 these accounts. The rules are not to apply the federal
4 2 requirements to operating organizations which do not utilize
4 3 federal funding for their accounts or to account holders who
4 4 do not receive TANF or other federal funding.

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