

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 24*

Short Title: Food Stamp Workfare.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Howard, Berry, Brawley, Daughtry, Russell, Hayes, Mitchell, Snowden, Capps, Neely; Aldridge, Arnold, Baker, Barbee, Buchanan, Cansler, Carpenter, Clary, Culp, Cummings, Davis, Decker, Dockham, Eddins, Edwards, Gardner, Hiatt, Hill, Kiser, McComas, McCombs, McMahan, K. Miller, Nichols, Pate, Preston, Pulley, Rayfield, Reynolds, Sexton, Sharpe, Sherrill, Shubert, Thompson, Weatherly, and C. Wilson.

Referred to: Welfare Reform and Human Resources.

January 26, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE RECIPIENTS OF FOOD STAMPS TO PARTICIPATE IN
2 WORKFARE.
3

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Effective October 1, 1995, Part 5 of Article 2 of Chapter 108A of
6 the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 108A-52.1. Food Stamp Workfare.**

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that all eligible Food Stamp recipients should
9 participate in the work of the community while receiving assistance to:

10 (1) Introduce recipients to the work environment of their community so that
11 they may gain work experience, which will lead to paid employment in
12 the public or private sector;

13 (2) Enable recipients to return something of value to the community that is
14 supporting them; and

1 (3) Act as a deterrent to abuse of the Food Stamp Program by those who
2 could work but choose not to.

3 (b) Effective October 1, 1995, the Department of Human Resources shall ensure
4 that all eligible Food Stamp recipients are available to participate in the work of their
5 community by being available to work for no compensation at the discretion of and under
6 the supervision of those public and nonprofit agencies in their county of residence that
7 the Department has designated as 'employing agencies', for as long as the recipients
8 receive Food Stamps. The Department shall ensure that all 100 counties participate.

9 (c) For purposes of the work requirements of this section, current rules on
10 eligibility exemptions for work requirements pursuant to this Article are modified as
11 follows:

12 (1) The maximum age exemption threshold is 65 years of age;

13 (2) A parent with a child under the age of five is exempt; and

14 (3) Full-time students are exempted.

15 (d) The Department shall ensure that the number of hours worked per month do
16 not exceed the number of hours produced by dividing the monthly value of the recipient's
17 Food Stamps by the appropriate minimum wage.

18 (e) The Department shall ensure that applicants for Food Stamps and recipients
19 currently receiving Food Stamps are notified of the work requirements established by this
20 section and shall also review procedures developed by local departments of social
21 services to ensure that all employing agencies operate fairly and in full cooperation with
22 the local department of social services."

23 Sec. 2. If it considers that it will be necessary to obtain a waiver from the
24 federal government to implement Section 1 of this act, the Department shall immediately,
25 as of the effective date of this section, prepare and apply for the waiver. If the federal
26 government denies the waiver before the effective date of Section 1 of this act or if the
27 waiver has not been accepted by the effective date of this section, this section shall not
28 become effective.

29 Sec. 3. Except for, and subject to the conditions set forth in, Section 2 of this
30 act, this act becomes effective October 1, 1995, and applies to Food Stamp benefits
31 issued beginning with the month following this date.