

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1385**

Introduced by

Representatives D. Johnson, Brandenburg, Hofstad, N. Johnson, Kempenich, Pollert

Senators Campbell, Larsen, Sitte

1 A BILL for an Act create and enact a new section to chapter 50-06 and a new subdivision to  
2 subsection 1 of section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to drug testing for  
3 the temporary assistance for needy families program and the supplemental nutrition assistance  
4 program.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Screening for controlled substances - Eligibility for temporary assistance for needy**  
9 **families and supplemental nutrition assistance programs.**

10 1. The department shall require every applicant for the temporary assistance for needy  
11 families program and every applicant for the supplemental nutrition assistance  
12 program to submit to a drug test to determine if the applicant is engaged in the illegal  
13 use of a controlled substance. The cost of the drug testing is the responsibility of the  
14 individual tested.

15 2. An individual who tests positive for controlled substances as a result of a drug test  
16 required under this section is ineligible to receive temporary assistance for needy  
17 families program or supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for one year  
18 after the date of the positive drug test unless the individual meets the requirements of  
19 subsection 4. An individual who tests positive in a second drug test is ineligible to  
20 receive temporary assistance for needy families program or supplemental nutrition  
21 assistance program benefits for three years after the date of the second positive drug  
22 test.

23 3. The department shall:

- 1           a. Provide notice of drug testing to each individual at the time of application. The  
2           notice must advise the individual that drug testing will be conducted as a  
3           condition for receiving temporary assistance for needy families program or  
4           supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and that the individual must  
5           bear the cost of testing. If the individual tests negative for controlled substances,  
6           the department shall increase the amount of the initial benefit by the amount paid  
7           by the individual for the drug testing. The individual must be advised that the  
8           required drug testing may be avoided if the individual does not apply for  
9           temporary assistance for needy families program or supplemental nutrition  
10          assistance program benefits. Dependent children under the age of eighteen are  
11          exempt from the drug testing requirement;  
12          b. Require that for two-parent families, both parents must comply with the drug  
13          testing requirement.  
14          c. Require that any teen parent who is not required to live with a parent, legal  
15          guardian, or other adult caretaker relative must comply with the drug testing  
16          requirement.  
17          d. Advise each individual to be tested, before the test is conducted, that the  
18          individual may advise the agent administering the test of any prescription or  
19          over-the-counter medication the individual is taking.  
20          e. Inform an individual who tests positive for a controlled substance and is deemed  
21          ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families program or supplemental  
22          nutrition assistance program benefits that the individual may reapply for those  
23          benefits one year after the date of the positive drug test unless the individual  
24          meets the requirements of subsection 4.  
25          f. Provide any individual who tests positive with a list of licensed substance abuse  
26          treatment providers available in the area in which the individual resides. The  
27          department is not responsible for providing or paying for substance abuse  
28          treatment as part of the screening conducted under this section.  
29          4. An individual who tests positive under this section and is denied temporary assistance  
30          for needy families program or supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits as a  
31          result may reapply for those benefits after six months if the individual can document

- 1           the successful completion of a substance abuse treatment program offered by a  
2           licensed substance abuse treatment provider. An individual who fails the drug test  
3           required under subsection 1 may reapply for benefits under this subsection only once.  
4        5. If a parent is deemed ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families program or  
5        supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits as a result of failing a drug test  
6        conducted under this section:  
7        a. The dependent child's eligibility for temporary assistance for needy families  
8        program or supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits is not affected.  
9        b. An appropriate protective payee must be designated to receive benefits on behalf  
10       of the child. The parent may choose to designate another individual to receive  
11       benefits for the parent's minor child. The designated individual must be an  
12       immediate family member or, if an immediate family member is not available or  
13       the family member declines the option, another individual, approved by the  
14       department, may be designated. The designated individual also must undergo  
15       drug testing before being approved to receive benefits on behalf of the child.  
16       6. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

17       **SECTION 2.** A new subdivision to subsection 1 of section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota  
18 Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

- 19           Require applicants to comply with the drug testing requirements of section 1 of  
20           this Act.