

HOUSE BILL 1615

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8lr0539
CF 8lr3617

By: **Delegates Valentino-Smith, Reznik, Gutierrez, Haynes, Hettleman, Jones, Krimm, Lam, Lierman, and McIntosh**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Temporary Disability Assistance Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Temporary Disability Assistance Program in the
4 Department of Human Services; requiring the Family Investment Administration to
5 be the central coordinating and directing agency of the Program; establishing the
6 primary purpose of the Program; requiring the Program to be administered by the
7 local departments of social services in a certain manner; specifying the requirements
8 for eligibility for assistance under the Program; requiring an application for
9 assistance under the Program to be made in a certain manner and include a certain
10 medical report; requiring a local department to verify that certain requirements are
11 met, notify applicants of certain determinations, and record certain information;
12 requiring local departments to determine eligibility periods for recipients based on
13 certain information; establishing certain restrictions on the length of eligibility
14 periods under certain circumstances; authorizing a local department to establish
15 certain additional eligibility periods under certain circumstances; requiring a local
16 department to adjust the eligibility period under certain circumstances; providing
17 for the automatic end of a recipient's eligibility for assistance; requiring local
18 departments to determine the amount and timing of assistance in accordance with
19 certain regulations; requiring assistance to be paid to an applicant in a certain
20 manner; requiring the monthly allowable assistance under the Program to equal
21 certain percentages of a certain benefit in certain fiscal years; authorizing an
22 applicant or recipient to appeal certain actions of local departments to the
23 Administration in certain circumstances; requiring the Administration to provide
24 certain notice and an opportunity for a hearing in certain circumstances; authorizing
25 the Administration to initiate certain reviews and make certain investigations;
26 requiring the Administration to make certain decisions; requiring a local department
27 to comply with a certain decision; requiring the Administration to supervise the
28 administration of the Program, adopt certain regulations, prescribe certain forms,
29 and take certain other actions; stating the intent of the General Assembly; defining

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 certain terms; and generally relating to the Temporary Disability Assistance
2 Program.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article – Human Services
5 Section 5–201
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Human Services
10 Section 5–205(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Human Services
15 Section 5–5B–01 through 5–5B–12 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5B.
16 Temporary Disability Assistance Program”
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2007 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Human Services**

22 5–201.

23 There is a Family Investment Administration in the Department.

24 5–205.

25 (a) The Administration shall be the central coordinating and directing agency of
26 all public assistance programs in the State, including:

27 (1) the Family Investment Program and related cash benefit programs;

28 (2) public assistance to adults;

29 (3) emergency assistance;

30 (4) food stamps;

31 (5) medical assistance eligibility determinations;

32 (6) the Energy Assistance Program; [and]

1 **(7) THE TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND**

2 **[(7)] (8)** any other public assistance activities financed wholly or partly
3 by the Administration.

4 **SUBTITLE 5B. TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

5 **5-5B-01.**

6 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
7 **INDICATED.**

8 **(B) “APPLICANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO APPLIES FOR ASSISTANCE**
9 **UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

10 **(C) “ASSISTANCE” MEANS CASH PAYMENTS MADE TO A RECIPIENT.**

11 **(D) “ELIGIBILITY PERIOD” MEANS THE PERIOD OF TIME AN INDIVIDUAL IS**
12 **ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

13 **(E) “IMPAIRMENT” MEANS A MEDICALLY VERIFIED MENTAL OR PHYSICAL**
14 **CONDITION THAT RENDERS AN INDIVIDUAL UNABLE TO WORK AT ANY OCCUPATION.**

15 **(F) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 **(G) “RECIPIENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES, OR HAS**
18 **RECEIVED, ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

19 **5-5B-02.**

20 **(A) THERE IS A STATE-FUNDED TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**
21 **PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

22 **(B) THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE**
23 **TO LOW-INCOME DISABLED ADULTS WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR OTHER CATEGORIES**
24 **OF ASSISTANCE.**

25 **(C) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE:**

26 **(1) IN EFFECT IN EACH COUNTY; AND**

1 **(2) ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE**
2 **WITH REGULATIONS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ADOPTS.**

3 **5-5B-03.**

4 **(A) SUBJECT TO § 5-5B-04 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE**
5 **FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE APPLICANT IS:**

6 **(1) A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OR A QUALIFIED ALIEN AS**
7 **DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;**

8 **(2) A RESIDENT OF THE STATE AND THE JURISDICTION SERVED BY**
9 **THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION;**

10 **(3) UNEMPLOYED;**

11 **(4) NOT RECEIVING ANY OTHER MEANS-TESTED CASH ASSISTANCE;**

12 **AND**

13 **(5) DETERMINED, BASED ON MEDICAL FINDINGS, TO HAVE AN**
14 **IMPAIRMENT THAT RENDERS THE APPLICANT UNABLE TO WORK FOR AT LEAST 3**
15 **MONTHS.**

16 **(B) AN APPLICANT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS**
17 **SUBTITLE IF THE APPLICANT HAS APPLIED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**
18 **INSURANCE OR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN**
19 **THE APPLICATION IS BEING PROCESSED.**

20 **5-5B-04.**

21 **(A) IF AN APPLICANT HAS AN IMPAIRMENT THAT IS EXPECTED TO RENDER**
22 **THE APPLICANT UNABLE TO WORK FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS, THE APPLICANT**
23 **SHALL:**

24 **(1) PURSUE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE; AND**

25 **(2) SIGN AN INTERIM PAYMENT REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORIZATION**
26 **THAT:**

27 **1. GIVES THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**
28 **AUTHORITY TO MAIL THE APPLICANT'S PAYMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OR THE**
29 **LOCAL DEPARTMENT; AND**

1 **2. AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT OR LOCAL DEPARTMENT**
2 **TO DEDUCT FROM THE PAYMENTS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE ASSISTANCE GRANTED**
3 **THE APPLICANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

4 **(B) A RECIPIENT WHO IS OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY**
5 **NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN 9 MONTHS IN A 36-MONTH PERIOD,**
6 **UNLESS THE RECIPIENT:**

7 **(1) HAS BEEN CERTIFIED AS MEDICALLY DISABLED BY A LICENSED**
8 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND**

9 **(2) HAS A PENDING APPLICATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY**
10 **INSURANCE.**

11 **5-5B-05.**

12 **(A) AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE**
13 **MADE:**

14 **(1) TO THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE**
15 **APPLICANT RESIDES; AND**

16 **(2) IN THE FORM AND MANNER THAT THE ADMINISTRATION**
17 **REQUIRES.**

18 **(B) AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL**
19 **INCLUDE A MEDICAL REPORT THAT:**

20 **(1) CONTAINS A STATEMENT ON THE NATURE AND ESTIMATED**
21 **DURATION OF THE APPLICANT'S IMPAIRMENT; AND**

22 **(2) IS SIGNED BY AN EXAMINING PHYSICIAN.**

23 **5-5B-06.**

24 **(A) IN DETERMINING THAT AN APPLICANT QUALIFIES FOR ASSISTANCE**
25 **UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL VERIFY THAT:**

26 **(1) THE APPLICANT'S MEDICAL REPORT INDICATES THE APPLICANT**
27 **HAS AN IMPAIRMENT PREVENTING THE APPLICANT FROM WORKING FOR AT LEAST**
28 **3 MONTHS; AND**

1 **(2) THE APPLICANT MEETS THE OTHER CRITERIA LISTED UNDER §**
2 **5-5B-03 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

3 **(B) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE APPLICANT OF ITS**
4 **DETERMINATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

5 **(C) ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS**
6 **SUBTITLE, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A RECORD OF:**

7 **(1) THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE APPLICANT;**

8 **(2) THE FACTS SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION; AND**

9 **(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION**
10 **REQUIRES BY REGULATION.**

11 **5-5B-07.**

12 **(A) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE AN ELIGIBILITY PERIOD**
13 **FOR A RECIPIENT BASED ON THE ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE IMPAIRMENT**
14 **INDICATED IN THE MEDICAL REPORT PROVIDED UNDER § 5-5B-05 OF THIS**
15 **SUBTITLE.**

16 **(B) THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT:**

17 **(1) MAY BE LESS THAN THE ESTIMATED RECOVERY TIME INDICATED**
18 **IN THE MEDICAL REPORT; AND**

19 **(2) MAY NOT EXCEED THE ESTIMATED RECOVERY TIME INDICATED IN**
20 **THE MEDICAL REPORT.**

21 **(C) IF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A RECIPIENT'S**
22 **ELIGIBILITY PERIOD IS AT LEAST 3 MONTHS, BUT LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, THE**
23 **RECIPIENT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NOT MORE THAN 9 MONTHS IN**
24 **A 36-MONTH PERIOD.**

25 **(D) (1) IF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT A RECIPIENT IS**
26 **UNLIKELY TO RECOVER IN LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, THE RECIPIENT SHALL BE**
27 **ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NOT MORE THAN 12 MONTHS IF THE RECIPIENT:**

28 **(I) PURSUES SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE; AND**

1 (II) OTHERWISE REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER
2 THIS SUBTITLE.

3 (2) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL
4 ELIGIBILITY PERIODS, EACH NOT EXCEEDING 12 MONTHS, IF THE RECIPIENT:

5 (I) REAPPLIES FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

6 (II) MAINTAINS ELIGIBILITY; AND

7 (III) CONTINUES TO PURSUE A SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY
8 INSURANCE CLAIM.

9 (3) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL ADJUST THE ELIGIBILITY
10 PERIOD FOR A RECIPIENT TO BE NOT MORE THAN 9 MONTHS IN A 36-MONTH PERIOD
11 IF THE RECIPIENT:

12 (I) WITHDRAWS THE RECIPIENT'S APPLICATION FOR
13 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE; OR

14 (II) IS DENIED THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE
15 CLAIM.

16 (E) UNLESS A RECIPIENT REAPPLIES FOR ASSISTANCE AND THE LOCAL
17 DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHES AN ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY PERIOD, A RECIPIENT'S
18 ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE WILL AUTOMATICALLY END AT
19 THE END OF THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

20 (F) IF A RECIPIENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR ANY PORTION OF A MONTH, THE
21 RECIPIENT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH.

22 **5-5B-08.**

23 (A) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS
24 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ADOPTS, DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
25 AND THE DATE ON WHICH THE ASSISTANCE WILL BEGIN.

26 (B) ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PAID TO THE APPLICANT MONTHLY OR AS THE
27 ADMINISTRATION OTHERWISE DETERMINES.

28 **5-5B-09.**

1 **THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE BUDGET TO**
2 **ENSURE THAT THE VALUE OF THE MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOWABLE ASSISTANCE**
3 **UNDER THE PROGRAM IS:**

4 **(1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, EQUAL TO 75% OF THE MONTHLY**
5 **ALLOWABLE BENEFIT FOR A ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD RECEIVING TEMPORARY**
6 **CASH ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR**
7 **2020;**

8 **(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021, EQUAL TO 85% OF THE MONTHLY**
9 **ALLOWABLE BENEFIT FOR A ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD RECEIVING TEMPORARY**
10 **CASH ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR**
11 **2021; AND**

12 **(3) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,**
13 **EQUAL TO THE MONTHLY ALLOWABLE BENEFIT FOR A ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLD**
14 **RECEIVING TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FAMILY INVESTMENT**
15 **PROGRAM IN THAT FISCAL YEAR.**

16 **5-5B-10.**

17 **(A) AN APPLICANT OR A RECIPIENT MAY APPEAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION**
18 **IF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT:**

19 **(1) DOES NOT ACT ON AN APPLICATION WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME;**

20 **(2) DENIES AN APPLICATION WHOLLY OR PARTLY; OR**

21 **(3) MODIFIES OR CANCELS A GRANT OF ASSISTANCE.**

22 **(B) (1) THE APPEAL SHALL BE FILED IN THE MANNER AND FORM THAT**
23 **THE ADMINISTRATION REQUIRES.**

24 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL GIVE THE APPLICANT OR**
25 **RECIPIENT REASONABLE NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING ON THE**
26 **APPEAL.**

27 **(C) (1) ON ITS OWN MOTION, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY:**

28 **(I) REVIEW ANY DECISION OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT; AND**

29 **(II) CONSIDER AN APPLICATION ON WHICH THE LOCAL**
30 **DEPARTMENT HAS NOT MADE A DECISION WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME.**

1 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION:**

2 **(I) MAY MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION IT CONSIDERS**
3 **NECESSARY; AND**

4 **(II) SHALL MAKE ANY DECISION ON THE GRANTING OF**
5 **ASSISTANCE AND THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IT CONSIDERS JUSTIFIED IN**
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.**

7 **(3) ON REQUEST, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL GIVE AN APPLICANT**
8 **OR RECIPIENT AFFECTED BY A DECISION MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
9 **SUBSECTION REASONABLE NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING.**

10 **(D) (1) A DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION IS**
11 **FINAL AND BINDING ON THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT.**

12 **(2) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH A DECISION OF**
13 **THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.**

14 **5-5B-11.**

15 **THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:**

16 **(1) SUPERVISE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS**
17 **SUBTITLE BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS;**

18 **(2) ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO CARRY OUT**
19 **THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY**
20 **REQUIREMENTS AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS NOT SET FORTH IN THIS**
21 **SUBTITLE;**

22 **(3) PRESCRIBE THE FORM OF AND SUPPLY TO THE LOCAL**
23 **DEPARTMENTS ANY FORMS THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS NECESSARY OR**
24 **DESIRABLE; AND**

25 **(4) TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO CARRY**
26 **OUT THIS SUBTITLE.**

27 **5-5B-12.**

28 **EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

1 **(1) ADMINISTER THIS SUBTITLE IN ITS COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE**
2 **WITH THE REGULATIONS THE ADMINISTRATION ADOPTS; AND**

3 **(2) REPORT TO THE ADMINISTRATION AS THE ADMINISTRATION**
4 **DIRECTS.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
6 Assembly that the eligibility requirements for the Temporary Disability Assistance
7 Program, codified under Section 1 of this Act and previously established under COMAR
8 07.03.05, are not made more restrictive than at the time this Act is enacted.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2018.