

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 7104

#### ***AN ACT DISREGARDING INCOME FROM PILOT CASH ASSISTANCE AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS FROM TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, when determining Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) eligibility, to disregard any financial assistance a family member gets from participating in a DSS-approved pilot program with a developed plan to study and evaluate the impact of direct cash transfers. Under the bill, this disregard applies for as long as the family member participates in the pilot program, up to 60 months, but is subject to DSS reauthorization every 24 months. The bill sets the conditions under which DSS may approve these pilot programs.

The bill also requires the DSS commissioner, when determining TFA eligibility, to disregard from income any stipend a family member gets from participating in a DSS-approved job training program, such as those offered by the Office of Workforce Strategy, the Department of Aging and Disability Services' Bureau of Rehabilitative Services, or a tax-exempt nonprofit. Under the bill, this disregard applies for as long as the family member participates in the training program, up to 36 months.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

#### **INCOME DISREGARD FOR DSS-APPROVED PILOT PROGRAMS**

The bill limits the pilot programs DSS may approve for the income disregard to those for which it can receive required waivers authorizing the disregard for federal and state benefits programs. Under the bill, DSS must request these waivers from all necessary federal, state, and local agencies and keep a publicly available list of approved programs.

Before approving a program, DSS must review the pilot program's long-term sustainability and its ability to meet programmatic and fiscal goals. It must require approved pilot programs to (1) inform potential participants in writing about how participating may impact their federal and state benefit eligibility now and in the future and (2) include contact information for participants to get more information or guidance on those impacts.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 517) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported out a substitute that eliminates a provision requiring the DSS and early childhood commissioners to establish a pilot program implementing the benefit cliff mitigation recommendations made in a Two-Generational Initiative study.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17      Nay 5      (03/18/2025)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 40      Nay 10      (05/05/2025)