



Legislative Council Staff

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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0820
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Exum, Sen. Todd

Date: February 16, 2018
Bill Status: House Public Health Care and Human Services
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Bill Topic: APPLICATIONS FOR AID TO THE NEEDY DISABLED PROGRAM

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure (minimal), State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government (minimal), Statutory Public Entity

The bill allows psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, or other qualified personnel deemed appropriate by the Department of Human Services to examine applicants and certify for the Aid to the Needy Disabled program. The bill may increase state expenditures and increase local government workload.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

This bill adds licensed or certified psychologists, licensed social workers, professional counselors, or other personnel deemed as qualified by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the list of professionals who can examine and certify the diagnosis, prognosis, and other relevant medical or mental factors for an applicant for Aid to the Needy Disabled Program.

Background

Currently, for an individual to receive benefits under the AND program, an applicant must have his or her medical condition certified by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse. AND benefits are paid to individuals who are completely disabled and unable to work for a period of six months. The AND program serves as a type of interim assistance while the individual applies for Social Security Income (SSI) benefits. Once an individual is approved for SSI benefits, they stop receiving AND benefits and the state is reimbursed by the federal government for the amount of AND benefits paid. In FY 2017-18, the AND Program was appropriated \$18.8 million with \$12.5 million coming from the General Fund and \$6.3 million coming from various cash funds. Of those cash funds, \$3.4 million came from local funds and \$2.3 million came from federal reimbursement.

**State Expenditures**

To the extent that streamlining the certification process will result in more applications that potentially may be approved, expenditures for the DHS on AND benefits may increase per year starting in the current FY 2017-18. Because the bill does not expand eligibility for AND benefits, it is assumed that any increases in applications and expenditures can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government**

Starting in the current FY 2017-18, the bill will increase workload to the county social or human service departments on an ongoing basis to the extent that more applications are filed due to the increase in professionals who can provide the examination and certify the results.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties      Human Services