



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3959

by Rep. Joe Sosnowski

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/4-21.1 new

Amends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that subject to appropriations, the Department of Human Services shall establish and administer a statewide suspicion-based substance abuse screening and testing pilot program for all applicants for and recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. Provides that at the time of application and annual redetermination of eligibility, the Department shall screen applicants for and recipients of TANF benefits for suspicion of substance abuse using an empirically validated substance abuse screening tool. Provides that if the results of the substance abuse screening gives the Department a reasonable suspicion to believe that the applicant or recipient has engaged in the use of a controlled substance, the applicant or recipient shall be required to take a substance abuse test and shall be ineligible for benefits if he or she refuses to take the test.

LRB099 09170 KTG 29368 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 adding Section 4-21.1 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/4-21.1 new)

7 Sec. 4-21.1. Suspicion-based substance abuse screening.

8 (a) Subject to appropriations, the Department shall  
9 establish and administer a statewide suspicion-based substance  
10 abuse screening and testing pilot program for all applicants  
11 for and recipients of benefits provided under this Article.

12 (b) At the time of application and annual redetermination  
13 of eligibility, the Department shall screen applicants for and  
14 recipients of benefits under this Article for suspicion of  
15 substance abuse using an empirically validated substance abuse  
16 screening tool.

17 (c) If the results of the substance abuse screening gives  
18 the Department a reasonable suspicion to believe that the  
19 applicant or recipient has engaged in the use of a controlled  
20 substance, the applicant or recipient shall be required to take  
21 a substance abuse test.

22 (d) If the applicant or recipient refuses to take a  
23 substance abuse test, he or she shall be ineligible for

1 benefits provided under this Article, but may reapply for such  
2 benefits after 6 months. If the applicant or recipient  
3 reapplies for benefits, he or she must test negative for use of  
4 a controlled substance.

5 (e) If the applicant or recipient tests negative for use of  
6 a controlled substance, the cost of administering the substance  
7 abuse test to him or her shall be paid for by the Department.