



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB4621

by Rep. John D. Cavaletto

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/4-1

from Ch. 23, par. 4-1

Amends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that the financial aid provided under the State's TANF program, which is intended to help eligible recipients pay for basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities, and basic living expenses, shall not be used for items not essential for the health and well-being of the recipient. Effective immediately.

LRB098 18079 KTG 53208 b

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 changing Section 4-1 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/4-1) (from Ch. 23, par. 4-1)

7 Sec. 4-1. Eligibility requirements. Financial aid in
8 meeting basic maintenance requirements for a livelihood
9 compatible with health and well-being shall be given under this
10 Article to or in behalf of families with dependent children who
11 meet the eligibility conditions of Sections 4-1.1 through
12 4-1.12. The financial aid provided under this Article, which is
13 intended to help eligible recipients pay for basic needs such
14 as food, shelter, utilities, and basic living expenses, shall
15 not be used for items not essential for the health and
16 well-being of the recipient. It shall be the policy of the
17 Illinois Department to provide aid under this Article to all
18 qualified persons who seek assistance and to conduct outreach
19 efforts to educate the public about the program. The Department
20 shall provide timely, accurate, and fair service to all
21 applicants for assistance. Persons who meet the eligibility
22 criteria authorized under this Article shall be treated
23 equally, provided that nothing in this Article shall be

1 construed to create an entitlement to a particular grant or
2 service level or to aid in amounts not authorized under this
3 Code, nor construed to limit the authority of the General
4 Assembly to change the eligibility requirements or provisions
5 respecting assistance amounts. The General Assembly recognizes
6 that the need for aid will fluctuate with the economic
7 situation in Illinois and that at times the number of people
8 receiving aid under this Article will increase.

9 The Illinois Department shall advise every applicant for
10 and recipient of aid under this Article of (i) the requirement
11 that all recipients move toward self-sufficiency and (ii) the
12 value and benefits of employment. As a condition of eligibility
13 for that aid, every person who applies for aid under this
14 Article on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act
15 of 1995 shall prepare and submit, as part of the application or
16 subsequent redetermination, a personal plan for achieving
17 employment and self-sufficiency. The plan shall incorporate
18 the individualized assessment and employability plan set out in
19 subsections (d), (f), and (g) of Section 9A-8. The plan may be
20 amended as the recipient's needs change. The assessment process
21 to develop the plan shall include questions that screen for
22 domestic violence issues and steps needed to address these
23 issues may be part of the plan. If the individual indicates
24 that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, he or she may
25 also be referred to an available domestic violence program.
26 Failure of the client to follow through on the personal plan

1 for employment and self-sufficiency may be a basis for sanction
2 under Section 4-21.

3 (Source: P.A. 96-866, eff. 7-1-10; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
5 becoming law.