

Testimony
Senate Bill 2062 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 12, 2015

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of the Economic Assistance Policy Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to support Senate Bill 2062, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

The Department is requesting an amendment to North Dakota Century Code Section 50-09-29 requirements for the administration of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The requested changes are as follows:

- Line 24 on page 1 and lines 1 and 2 on Page 2 – Removes the asset limit dollar amounts. The Department aligned the TANF asset limit with the Medicaid asset limit. When this was done, this language change was missed.
- Line 15 on page 2 - Removes the requirement that the Department consider implementing an electronic fund transfer system because it already has implemented this provision. Benefits are distributed monthly on a debit card through a vendor.
- Proposes the following changes based on federal changes to the TANF work requirements that place emphasis on work first. The TANF adult must sign and follow through with an employment plan. The employment plan includes the consequences of noncompliance.

- Line 2 on page 3 – Removes “responsibility” and replaces it with “employment.”
- Line 4 on page 3 - Removes “in developing an” and added “with the terms of the.”
- Line 5 on page 3 – Removes “responsibility” and replaces it with “employment.”

The Department does not anticipate any negative consequences as a result of the proposed changes.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.