

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6024

C 198 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Addressing applications for public assistance from persons currently ineligible to receive assistance.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Stevens and Carrell).

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
House Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services
House Committee on Human Services

Background: The state provides public assistance to persons in the state of Washington who meet income requirements and other eligibility criteria. Medical assistance is a form of public assistance, and is supported by programs which provide federal matching funds, such as Medicaid. Federal matching funds cannot be used to provide medical assistance to a person who is in the custody of a jail, prison, or secure mental health facility with more than 16 beds. State law also prohibits providing public assistance to persons residing in these institutions.

State law prohibits a person who is not currently eligible for public assistance from applying for public assistance unless the person can show that he or she will become eligible within 45 days. This is known as the "45 day rule."

Jail detainees whose cases have not been adjudicated do not have an established release date from custody, although jail stays are typically short. The 45 day rule has been applied to prevent jail detainees from applying for public assistance following release from custody when the jail detainee does not have an established release date.

Summary: A person who is not currently eligible for public assistance may apply for public assistance when the date at which the person will become eligible is either unknown or further than 45 days away. Public assistance may not be provided to a person while the person is residing in a jail, prison, or other public institution as the term is defined in chapter 74.08 RCW. This act has an effective date of November 1, 2009.

Votes on Final Passage:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Senate 48 0
House 97 1

Effective: November 1, 2009