

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2252

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As of June 4, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to social service programs.

**Brief Description:** Revising eligibility requirements for general assistance.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sommers, Fromhold and Moeller.

**Brief History:**

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**Staff:** Kirstan Arestad (786-7708)

**Background:** General Assistance - Unemployable (GA-U) benefits are provided to people who are temporarily disabled and as a result cannot work. To be eligible for these benefits, a client must undergo an incapacity review that proves the client temporarily disabled by a medical or mental condition. After a client is determined eligible for GA-U benefits, the client is required to have periodic incapacity reviews to ensure continued eligibility for the program.

Current law prohibits the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) from terminating a GA-U recipient's benefits unless there is a clear showing of material improvement in the recipient's medical or mental condition at the incapacity review.

**Summary of Bill:** DSHS is required to discontinue benefits to GA-U recipients unless the recipient demonstrates no material improvement in his or her medical or mental condition at the incapacity review.

Estimated savings are \$13.7 million for the 2003-05 biennium and \$15.9 million in the 2005-07 biennium.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.