

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 5838

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Providing a monthly diaper subsidy for parents or other caregivers receiving temporary assistance for needy families.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Nobles, Rivers, Das, Frockt, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nguyen, Robinson, Saldaña, Stanford, Trudeau and Wilson, C.).

**Senate Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**  
**House Committee on Housing, Human Services & Veterans**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Background:** Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) provides cash grants for families in need. In addition to needy families, persons caring for a child who is not their own biologically or by addition, for example, a relative's child, as a legal guardian, or acting in the place of a parent, are also able to apply for TANF benefits on behalf of that child. Adults in families receiving TANF participate in the WorkFirst program, which helps participants resolve barriers and prepare for and find jobs. In fiscal year 2021, the average monthly TANF caseload was 29,701 representing 69,672 clients, with an average payment of \$470.63, and 29.8 percent of the caseloads—13,556—included children five and under.

**Summary:** Subject to appropriation, to assist with child-related necessities such as diapers, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) may make additional monthly payments to recipient applicants with children under the age of three who are otherwise eligible for and receiving TANF. DSHS is to set the benefit amount in rule in alignment with funds appropriated for this purpose. DSHS is to make reasonable efforts to ensure timely communication to families of the new subsidy at implementation and as diaper eligibility changes.

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

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	48	1
House	63	35

**Effective:** November 1, 2023