

HOUSE BILL NO. 526

INTRODUCED BY SIMON

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

IN THE HOUSE

January 28, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Human Services and Aging.
January 30, 1985	Fiscal Note requested.
February 4, 1985	Fiscal Note returned.
February 15, 1985	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 16, 1985	Second reading, do pass.
February 18, 1985	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 19, 1985	Third reading, passed. Transmitted to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

February 21, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Safety.
March 11, 1985	Committee recommend bill be concurrent in. Report adopted.
March 13, 1985	Second reading, concurred in.

March 15, 1985

Third reading, concurred in.
Ayes, 48; Noes, 0.

Returned to House.

IN THE HOUSE

March 16, 1985

Received from Senate.

Sent to enrolling.

Reported correctly enrolled.

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 2 INTRODUCED BY [Signature]
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 4 SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

5
 6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS
 7 FOR GENERAL RELIEF TO FIRST PURSUE OTHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
 8 PROGRAMS; AMENDING SECTION 53-3-204, MCA; AND PROVIDING
 9 EFFECTIVE DATES."

10
 11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 Section 1. Section 53-3-204, MCA, is amended to read:

13 "53-3-204. Eligibility for general relief based-on --
 14 investigation of resources -- eligibility for other public
 15 assistance. (1) An applicant for general relief assistance,
 16 including medical care and hospitalization, shall be
 17 eligible to receive assistance only after investigation by
 18 the county department reveals that the income and resources
 19 are insufficient to provide the necessities of life.
 20 Assistance shall be provided to meet a minimum subsistence
 21 compatible with decency and health.

22 (2) General relief is available to a recipient to the
 23 extent such relief is not duplicative of resources or
 24 benefits reasonably available to the recipient.

25 (3) If other federal or state programs of assistance

1 are reasonably available to meet the needs of the household
 2 of which he is a member, the applicant must apply for
 3 eligibility in those programs before general relief will be
 4 provided to that household. After initial denials of other
 5 reasonably available programs of assistance, a household may
 6 be provided general relief if, and during the time period
 7 that, the applicant pursues available administrative appeals
 8 for those programs to the final administrative appeal level.
 9 Such interim general relief must be repaid to the department
 10 or offset from lump sums or retroactive payments of other
 11 programs of assistance for which the applicant becomes
 12 eligible for the same period of time that the general relief
 13 is provided."

14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Extension of authority. Any
 15 existing authority of the department of social and
 16 rehabilitation services to make rules on the subject of the
 17 provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this
 18 act.

19 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. (1) This
 20 section and section 2 are effective on passage and approval,
 21 except that no rule promulgated to implement section 1 may
 22 be effective prior to July 1, 1985.

23 (2) Section 1 is effective July 1, 1985.

-End-



STATE OF MONTANA
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST NO. FNN272-85

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received January 30 19 85, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for H.B. 526 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

House Bill 526 would require applicants for General Relief to first pursue other public assistance programs.

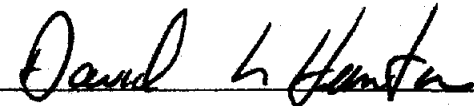
ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Currently, some counties require applicants for general relief to pursue other public assistance programs.
2. In those cases outlined in number 1 above, medical providers are not paid pending that appeal process.
3. Currently, some counties do not require applicants for general relief to pursue other public assistance programs.
4. In those cases outlined in number 3 above, medical providers are paid and, therefore, neither the medical provider nor the recipient has any vested interest in pursuing further administrative appeals levels since their bills have been paid.
5. This bill would allow all counties to pay the bills to medical providers, thus not causing the hold-up of payment, but would also require that the recipient pursue available administrative appeals through the final administrative appeal level. In general, this is principally directed to applicants applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None estimated.

NOTE: There is the potential for some savings to both state administered and non-administered counties, but it is difficult to estimate the magnitude of those savings.



BUDGET DIRECTOR
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: Feb 4, 1985

FN6:C/1

HB 526

APPROVED BY COMM. ON
HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

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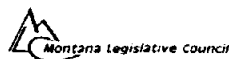
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