

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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District of
Columbia
Official Code*

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To amend the District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982 to eliminate the requirements that result in children being deprived of benefits in one-parent Temporary Assistance for Needy Families households because of the death or continued absence of the second parent and children in 2-parent households because of the incapacity or unemployment of one of the parents, to eliminate conditions on 2-parent households except that the primary wage-earner must be referred for job search or other work activities, to eliminate the mandatory exclusion of the step-parent from the assistance unit, to allow households to choose to include a step-parent in the household, to require that the children of a step-parent be included, if the household chooses to include the step-parent, and to eliminate the requirement that the assistance unit include all dependent children living in the same household who are related by blood, half-blood, or legal adoption to any other member of the assistance unit by a relationship that would qualify an adult as a caretaker relative of that other member of the assistance unit.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Public Assistance Amendment Act of 2009”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982, effective April 6, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-101; D.C. Official Code § 4-201.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 101 (D.C. Official Code § 4-201.01) is amended as follows:

Amend
§ 4-201.01

(1) Paragraph (1D) is repealed.

(2) Paragraph (5C) is amended by striking the phrase “on the basis of the unemployment of that parent”.

(b) Section 515 (D.C. Official Code § 4-205.15) is amended as follows:

Amend
§ 4-205.15

(1) Subsection (a) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “shall not” and inserting the phrase “may, at the parent’s request, choose not to” in its place.

(B) New paragraphs (1A) and (1B) are added to read as follows:

“(1A) The step-parent of a dependent child, if there is a parent of the dependent

child in the home who chooses to be included in the dependent child's assistance unit; and

“(1B) Any dependent child of a step-parent who is included in a dependent step-child's assistance unit;”.

(C) Paragraph (3) is repealed.

(2) Subsection (e) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (4) is amended by adding the word “and” at the end.

(B) Paragraph (5) is amended by striking the phrase “income; and” and inserting the phrase “income.” in its place.

(C) Paragraph (6) is repealed.

(c) Section 518 (D.C. Official Code § 4-205.18) is amended as follows:

Amend
§ 4-205.18

(1) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) A needy child is eligible for TANF.”.

(2) Subsection (b) is repealed.

(d) Section 521(a) and (b) (D.C. Official Code § 4-205.21(a) and (b)) is repealed.

Amend
§ 4-205.21

(e) Section 522 (D.C. Official Code § 4-205.22) is amended as follows:

Amend
§ 4-205.22

(1) Subsection (b)(2) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (A) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) The first \$90 of the total of the deemed parent's earned income for the month;”.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by adding the word “and” at the end.

(C) Subparagraph (C) is repealed.

(2) Subsection (d)(2) is amended by striking the phrase “with whom the parent does not have a child in common.” and inserting the phrase “who is not the parent of the dependent child, and chooses to be excluded from the dependent child's assistance unit.” in its place.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report for the Public Assistance Amendment Act of 2009, passed on 1st reading on September 22, 2009 (Engrossed version of Bill 18-6), as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia