

House Welfare Bills, 2011

Bill Number	What It Does	Status as of 4/15/11	Problems	To Do
HB 392 (Kauffman)	Requires photos to be placed on EBT cards. Photos to be taken before benefits are issued.	Held in Human Svcs Comm	Original bill would require people to go to CAO to be photographed – huge problem for many applicants. Delozier amendment would replace bill text with new requirement to present photo ID to use the card -- huge problem for people without ID, and violates federal SNAP law. Bill is not moving at the moment; next steps uncertain.	Hold off for now.
HB 960 (Gingrich)	Puts existing IEVS database-checking system into statute.	Passed House unanimously 4/12.	DPW has checked these databases for years.	Low priority – existing practice.
HB 1251 (Toohil)	Increases penalties for welfare fraud; removes such cases from district justice court.	Passed House 4/12, 130-69	Branding more people as felons will make it harder for them to get jobs. Bill increases the likelihood of incarceration, costing \$33K a year. No evidence bill is needed.	Calls and letters to Senators in opposition.
HB 1254 (Reese)	Bars use of EBT or EPPI (child support) card to purchase tobacco products or at casinos.	Passed House Health Comm 4/5; vote on second consideration 4/26	Paternalistic. Restricts legal rights based on the individual's source of income.	Calls and letters to House and Senate in opposition.
HB 1261 (Quigley)	Sets grant amount at the amount set for the family's county of permanent residence. Ostensibly stops "benefit shopping."	Passed House 4/12, 166-34	Unclear whether would change anything. Domestic violence victims and homeless people moving to another county temporarily might get lower benefits for three months (or might get higher).	Calls and letters to Senators in opposition.

HB 1297 (Everett)	Requires drug testing for people with felony drug convictions in last five years; people who fail lose cash, SNAP, and/or SSP.	Passed House Health Comm 4/5; vote on second consideration 4/26	Ambiguity in bill suggests that people with drug felonies must be court-ordered to treatment to be eligible for benefits at all; many are not. Bill does not mandate that treatment be offered people failing drug tests, or protect individuals who have not been offered it.	Calls and letters to House and Senate in opposition.
HB 1301 (Oberlander)	Medical Assistance Transportation Program -- sets rules for the program in statute.	Passed House Health Comm 4/5; vote on second consideration 4/26	Limits transportation to the nearest medical provider. Limits mileage reimbursement to 50 miles. Adds red tape.	Calls and letters to House and Senate in opposition.
HB 1312 (Stephens)	Special allowances for supportive services – makes this existing grant program into a loan program, with exception of public transportation and mileage reimbursement. Loans capped at \$2K, to be repaid in 24 months.	Passed House Health Comm 4/5; vote on second consideration 4/26	Makes it harder and more expensive to move from welfare to work. Requires clients to take out loans to get clothing, books, supplies, testing or professional fees, or car or car repair. Requires repayment in 24 months including via recoupment of TANF grant. Requires giving up SNAP benefits to take advantage of the bill's loan forgiveness provision.	Calls and letters to House and Senate in opposition.