

HOUSE BILL NO. 1273

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE UNSICKER.

3295H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 208.065, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the verification of eligibility for public assistance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 208.065, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 208.065, to read as follows:

208.065. 1. No later than January 1, 2017, the department of social services ~~shall~~ **may** procure and enter into a competitively bid contract with a contractor to provide verification of initial and ongoing eligibility data for assistance under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP); temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program; child care assistance program; and MO HealthNet program. The contractor shall conduct data matches using the name, date of birth, address, and Social Security number of each applicant and recipient, and additional data provided by the applicant or recipient relevant to eligibility against public records and other data sources to verify eligibility data.

2. The contractor shall evaluate the income, resources, and assets of each applicant and recipient no less than ~~quarterly~~ **annually**. In addition to ~~quarterly~~ **annual** eligibility data verification, the contractor shall identify on a monthly basis any program participants who have died, moved out of state, or have been incarcerated longer than ninety days.

3. The contractor, upon completing an eligibility data verification of an applicant or recipient, shall notify the department of the results; except that, the contractor shall not verify the eligibility data of persons residing in long-term care facilities or persons receiving home- and community-based services whose income and resources were at or below the applicable financial eligibility standards at the time of their last review. Within twenty business days of such

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 notification, the department shall make an eligibility determination. The department shall retain
19 final authority over eligibility determinations. The contractor shall keep a record of all eligibility
20 data verifications communicated to the department. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed
21 to affect any obligation or requirement under state or federal law or regulation that the
22 department verify the eligibility data of persons residing in long-term care facilities or persons
23 receiving home- and community-based services.

24 4. Within thirty days of the end of each calendar year, the department and contractor
25 shall file a joint report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
26 president pro tempore of the senate. The report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the
27 number of applicants and recipients determined ineligible for assistance programs based on the
28 eligibility data verification by the contractor and the stated reasons for the determination of
29 ineligibility by the department.

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