

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

NO. 8
Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY _____ November 21, 2025

REFERRED TO SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Drug Testing for Welfare Benefits

This legislation would implement a drug test and retest program for applicants and recipients of public assistance benefits (welfare benefits).

Section 1. Assessment Measures.

The Department of Human Services shall develop and implement an assessment procedure to determine whether an individual has taken or is currently taking a controlled substance (drug). The type and scope of the test shall be determined by the Department of Human Services.

Section 2. Procedure and Conditions.

During both the application process and before the individual receives public assistance benefits, the Department of Human Services shall assess whether the applicant has taken or is currently taking a controlled substance (drug).

Section 3. Penalties.

Any individual that fails the controlled substance assessment developed and implemented by the Department of Human Services will be ineligible to receive public assistance benefits.

If an applicant appeals the assessment results, they shall not receive public assistance benefits until a drug reassessment is passed or an appeals ruling is issued.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.