

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB508

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 21, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 508 is intended to prevent the unnecessary entry of children into the child welfare system by addressing poverty, which is key to keeping children out of the system. The bill would ensure families are able to provide for their children's basic needs such as rent and clothing through the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program. People must have a very low income to be eligible for the program -- for a family of 3, this means earning no more than \$740 per month (after a 20% disregard of earned income). All able-bodied individuals on ADC must engage in work requirements.

LB 508 would align the ADC allotment with the cost of living. The allotment is determined by two factors: standard of need and maximum payment. Though the standard of need increases every two years by a percentage based upon the cost of living, the maximum payment has not been changed in over 30 years, making it completely out of sync with the cost of living. To correct this, LB 508 would raise the maximum payment every two years until it is 70% of the standard of need.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kathy Campbell