

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. B. No. 227

Senator Williams

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Antonio, Maharath



A BILL

To establish the Public Assistance Benefits Cliff Study Committee. 1
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) As used this this section, "benefits cliff" 3
means the sudden decrease in public benefits that can occur due 4
to a small increase in earnings. 5

(B) There is hereby created the Public Assistance Benefits 6
Cliff Study Committee comprised of the following seven members: 7

(1) Two members of the Senate, one from the majority party 8
appointed by the President of the Senate, and one from the 9
minority party appointed by the Minority Leader; 10

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives, one from 11
the majority party appointed by the Speaker of the House of 12
Representatives, and one from the minority party appointed by 13
the Minority Leader; 14

(3) Three members from nonpartisan community organizations 15
focused on health, social, and economic issues appointed by the 16
Governor. 17

(C) From the members appointed under divisions (B) (1) and 18
(2) of this section, the President shall appoint one member of 19
the Senate as co-chairperson and the Speaker shall appoint one 20
member of the House of Representatives as co-chairperson. 21

(D) All appointments to the Committee shall be made not 22
later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. 23

(E) The Committee shall hold an initial meeting not later 24
than sixty days after the effective date of this section and 25
shall meet thereafter at the discretion of the co-chairpersons. 26

(F) The Committee shall study, take testimony regarding, 27
and discuss the issue of benefits cliffs in connection with: 28

(1) Medicaid; 29

(2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; 30

(3) The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, 31
Infants, and Children; 32

(4) Programs funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy 33
Families block grant; 34

(5) The Home Energy Assistance Program; 35

(6) Affordable housing programs; 36

(7) Publicly funded child care; 37

(8) Other public assistance programs with income-based 38
eligibility. 39

(G) Within one year of the effective date of this section, 40
the Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, in the 41
manner specified in section 101.68 of the Revised Code, and to 42
the Governor, an informational report that includes the 43
Committee's findings and a summary of the testimony provided to 44

the Committee. The report also shall describe recommendations 45
for legislation and administrative rules to eliminate benefits 46
cliffs and the information considered that informed the 47
recommendations. 48

(H) After submission of the report, the Committee shall 49
cease to exist. 50