

State Senator
Don White
41st Senatorial District

APR 06 2011

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April 6, 2011

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TO: All Senators

FR: Senator Don White *DCW*

RE: Co-sponsorship: Welfare Reform package

In the near future, I plan to introduce four bills that mirror welfare reform efforts currently advancing in the House of Representatives. The four-bill package would include Senate versions of the following House bills:

House Bill 960: Establishes a fraud detection system and an income verification system within the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) for the purpose of identifying investigating and resolving potential cases of fraud and abuse within the public assistance system.

House Bill 1251: Amends the Public Welfare Code to expand the definition of welfare fraud and update terminology; address the reporting of fraud; increase penalties; and change welfare fraud investigatory powers.

House Bill 1261: Requires DPW to calculate public assistance amounts based on a person's eligibility and need in their county of permanent residence.

House Bill 1254: Prevents welfare recipients from using their benefit cards to purchase tobacco products.

If you would like to cosponsor any of these bills, please contact Anne Achenbach at aachenbach@pasen.gov or call 7-8724.

DCW/ama