

Senator Scott T. Rupp
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Senator Scott T. Rupp Proposes Legislation Requiring Drug Screening For Welfare Recipients

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri Sen. Scott T. Rupp presented [Senate Bill 725](#) today before the Senate Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families Committee, a bill that would require drug screening for welfare recipients.

Senator Rupp’s proposed legislation would require the Department of Social Services to develop a drug testing and screening program for each work-eligible applicant or work-eligible recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. The testing would be triggered by a case worker’s suspicion of drug abuse.

If a person tests positive for illegal drug abuse, the person can be declared ineligible for TANF benefits for a period of two years from the date of an administrative hearing on the case, unless the applicant completes a substance abuse treatment program, and passes subsequent drug screenings.

“I think this bill is just common sense,” said Sen. Rupp. “Our tax dollars shouldn’t support drug habits, and there should be consequences for those who attempt to defraud the program to support their addiction. Employees that pay for this program with their tax dollars have to get drug tests to gain employment, so those receiving benefits should pass drug tests, too.”

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