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Missouri Officials Discuss Welfare Changes

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - A proposal to cut the amount of time someone can be on welfare has first-round approval from the Missouri Senate.

On Thursday, Senators in a voice vote supported ramping back the lifetime limit on receiving welfare benefits from five years to four.

The bill would affect recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which gives money monthly to low-income families.

The legislation also would eventually cut access to benefits if parents don't look for work or participate in other work-related activities. Department of Social Services workers would be required to meet with those at risk of falling out of compliance.

Republican Senator David Sater of Cassville says he wants to push recipients to find work. Democratic opponents say the bill could hurt struggling families.

Associated Press