

## Daniel George

---

**From:** Newman, Anthony (HSS) <anthony.newman@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2016 9:21 PM  
**To:** Daniel George  
**Cc:** Woods, Sarah B (HSS); Ashenbrenner, Chris (HSS); Davidson, Valerie J (HSS); Sherwood, Jon (HSS); OBrien, Sean K (HSS); Olejasz, Aimee M (HSS); Peterson, Darwin R (GOV); Wilcox, Lacy J (GOV); McClanahan, Natasha S (GOV)  
**Subject:** RE: HSS FN for SB 91 (3667)

Daniel, in response to your recent questions the Division of Public Assistance provides the following responses:

Would the department please provide data on the current number of recipients under the program(s) (SNAP & ATAP if applicable)?

Currently there are approximately 530 Food Stamp cases and approximately 90 Alaska Temporary Assistance cases for which a drug felon is listed in the case as part of the household.

Clarification: Food Stamp benefits are not available to drug felons. If a drug felon is part of the household, that individual's income and resources are counted in the calculation when determining eligibility benefits but the drug felon is not considered when the benefits are issued to the household. For example, if a household is comprised of a mother, her son and her boyfriend (who is a drug felon living with them), the boyfriend's income and resources are counted as part of the household, but benefits will only be provided for a household size of 2 (mother and her son).

Alaska Temporary Assistance recipients who are known drug felons can receive benefits as long as the benefit is not paid with federal funds.

Please also provide an estimate (if possible) regarding the anticipated number of new recipients in Alaska, and the anticipated cost of administering the program due to the additional recipients.

The Division anticipates that there may be fewer than a hundred new recipients of Food Stamp benefits, were SB91 to be enacted.

The Division does not expect any additional administrative costs associated with SB91. Applications for households with and without drug felon members are assessed for eligibility, and that work does not change with SB91, only the potential Food Stamp benefits awarded. If the Food Stamp application is for a single person and that person is a drug felon, the application is currently denied. If SB 91 passes, the division will authorize benefits instead of denying the application.

Thank you,

Tony

**Tony Newman** | Legislative Liaison

Office of the Commissioner | Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

350 Main Street, Room 404 | Juneau AK 99811  
(desk) [907.465.1611](tel:907.465.1611) | (cell) [907.321.3989](tel:907.321.3989)  
[anthony.newman@alaska.gov](mailto:anthony.newman@alaska.gov)

---

**From:** Daniel George [<mailto:Daniel.George@akleg.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:52 AM

**To:** Newman, Anthony (HSS)  
**Subject:** HSS FN for SB 91

Hello Tony,

I know that the administration is still working on fiscal notes for SB 91, which is scheduled for hearing and public testimony on Saturday, 2/13. One of the proposals in the bill lifts Alaska's state prohibition on "food stamps for drug felons." This provision appeared (with slightly different requirements) in HB 347 in the 28<sup>th</sup> legislature.

While the federal food stamp program is 100% federally funded, I understand that its administration in the state is 50% federal / 50% state funded. Would the department please provide data on the current number of recipients under the program(s) (SNAP & ATAP *if applicable*)? Please also provide an estimate (if possible) regarding the anticipated number of new recipients in Alaska, and the anticipated cost of administering the program due to the additional recipients.

Please let me know if I can help provide additional clarification for the request. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

**Daniel George**

*Staff to Senator Bill Stoltze*

*Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee*

*(907) 465-4958*

[Daniel.George@akleg.gov](mailto:Daniel.George@akleg.gov)