



# DAVE MURPHY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Assembly Passes Drug Treatment Bills to Build a Stronger Workforce**

(Madison)...Rep. Murphy (R-Greenville) voted yesterday to pass Assembly bills 191 and 192 that create a drug screening system and treatment program for recipients of the Foodshare Employment and Training program (FSET) and Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

“These bills are about making sure that those who want a job are on the right path to be employed,” said Murphy.

The bills would require participants of the FSET program and individuals who receive UI benefits to undergo a screen for drug use. If the screening produces results indicating a reasonable suspicion of drug use, the individual would undergo a drug test. Those who test positive for drug use would enter into a treatment program.

“This program is not punitive, rather it provides funding for treatment for individuals who test positive for drug use so they can be employable, and remain eligible for their benefits,” stated Murphy.

“We need to find and help those individuals who have a substance abuse problem as quickly as possible and get them on the right track. I would prefer the first encounter with substance abuse be in a treatment program rather than the criminal justice system,” said Murphy.

Each bill provides \$500,000 in funding for treatment programs. The Assembly passed both bills which now head to the Senate.

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