

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Public Health and  
Welfare;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 73

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO USE ANY OF THE SAVINGS  
3 TO THE TANF PROGRAM THAT RESULTS FROM A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF  
4 TANF RECIPIENTS TO FUND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR  
5 TANF RECIPIENTS WHO DESIRE TO ATTEND COLLEGE; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. Section 43-17-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 43-17-7. (1) The state department shall:

11 (a) Supervise the administration of the Temporary  
12 Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program under this chapter by  
13 the county departments;

14 (b) Make such rules and regulations and take such  
15 action as may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the  
16 provisions of this chapter. All rules and regulations made by the  
17 state department shall be binding on the counties and shall be  
18 complied with by the respective county departments;

19 (c) Prescribe the form of, and print and supply to the  
20 county departments such forms as it may deem necessary and  
21 advisable;

22 (d) Cooperate with the federal government in matters of  
23 mutual concern pertaining to the TANF program;

24 (e) Make such reports in such form and containing such  
25 information as the federal government may from time to time  
26 require, and comply with such provisions as the federal government  
27 may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and  
28 verification of such reports;

29           (f) Publish an annual report and such interim reports  
30 as may be necessary;

31           (g) Establish rules and regulations restricting the use  
32 or disclosure of information, records, papers, files and  
33 communications concerning applicants and recipients to purposes  
34 directly connected with the administration of the TANF program, in  
35 compliance with federal law;

36           (h) When the state agency has reason to believe that  
37 the home in which a relative and child receiving TANF assistance  
38 reside is unsuitable for the child because of the neglect, abuse  
39 or exploitation of such child, the state department shall bring  
40 such condition to the attention of the appropriate court or law  
41 enforcement agencies, and provide such data with respect to the  
42 situation as the department may have;

43           (i) As required by federal law, to provide for the  
44 development and implementation of a program under which the  
45 department will undertake, in the case of a child born out of  
46 wedlock who is receiving TANF assistance authorized herein, to  
47 establish the paternity of such child and secure support for him;  
48 and, in the case of any child receiving TANF assistance from the  
49 department who has been deserted or abandoned by his parent, to  
50 secure support for such child from such parent (or from any other  
51 person legally liable for such support), utilizing any reciprocal  
52 arrangements adopted with other states to obtain or enforce court  
53 orders for support;

54           (j) Provide for entering into cooperative arrangements  
55 with appropriate courts and law enforcement officials to assist  
56 the department in administering the program referred to in  
57 paragraph (i), including the entering into of financial  
58 arrangements with such courts and officials in order to assure  
59 optimum results under such program, and with respect to any other  
60 matters of common concern to such courts or officials in the  
61 department;

62           (k) Use any of the savings to the TANF program that  
63 results from a reduction in the number of TANF recipients, because  
64 of the recipients' employment as provided for under this chapter  
65 or for any other reason, to fund post-secondary education  
66 assistance for TANF recipients who desire to attend college.

67           (2) The Department of Human Services shall include the  
68 following agencies currently providing services to TANF and food  
69 stamp recipients in any planning activities with respect thereto,  
70 and those agencies shall cooperate with the department and provide  
71 information as necessary in order to ensure the full utilization  
72 of all economic assistance programs: the State Department of  
73 Mental Health, the State Department of Rehabilitation Services,  
74 the Mississippi Department of Corrections, the Mississippi  
75 Department of Transportation, the State Department of Public  
76 Safety, the Division of Medicaid, the State Department of Health  
77 and the State Department of Education.

78           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
79 and after July 1, 1999.