

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Public Health and  
Welfare;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 84

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE EACH STATE AGENCY TO ESTABLISH RECRUITMENT AND HIRING  
3 GOALS THAT TARGET 10% OF CERTAIN JOBS TO BE FILLED WITH RECIPIENTS  
4 OF TANF BENEFITS OR FOOD STAMPS; TO PROVIDE THAT WHENEVER A TANF  
5 RECIPIENT SEEKS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, THE  
6 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION SHALL ENTER THE RECIPIENT IN JOB  
7 PLACEMENT SERVICES AND SHALL PROVIDE INTENSIVE JOB DEVELOPMENT AND  
8 JOB REFERRAL ASSISTANCE TO THE RECIPIENT; AND FOR RELATED  
9 PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 43-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy  
14 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent  
15 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the  
16 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary  
17 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each  
18 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the  
19 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the  
20 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when  
21 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the  
22 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and  
23 support available to the child to provide such child with a  
24 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The  
25 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
26 amount not to exceed Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) per month; the second  
27 family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
28 amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per month; and  
29 each additional family member in the dependent child's budget an

30 amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per month. The  
31 maximum for any individual family member in the dependent child's  
32 budget may be exceeded for foster or medical care or in cases of  
33 mentally retarded or physically handicapped children. TANF  
34 benefits granted shall be specifically limited only (a) to  
35 children existing or conceived at the time the caretaker relative  
36 initially applies and qualifies for such assistance, unless this  
37 limitation is specifically waived by the department, or (b) to a  
38 child born following a twelve (12) consecutive month period of  
39 discontinued benefits by the caretaker relative.

40 (2) TANF cash benefits in Mississippi shall be provided by  
41 monthly checks mailed to the recipient family until such time as  
42 an on-line electronic benefits transfer system for TANF benefit  
43 payments is implemented pursuant to Section 43-1-28.

44 (3) The Department of Human Services shall deny TANF  
45 benefits to the following categories of individuals, except for  
46 individuals and families specifically exempt or excluded for good  
47 cause as allowed by federal statute or regulation:

48 (a) Families without a minor child residing with the  
49 custodial parent or other adult caretaker relative of the child;

50 (b) Families which include an adult who has received  
51 TANF assistance for sixty (60) months after the commencement of  
52 the Mississippi TANF program, whether or not such period of time  
53 is consecutive;

54 (c) Families not assigning to the state any rights a  
55 family member may have, on behalf of the family member or of any  
56 other person for whom the family member has applied for or is  
57 receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, as  
58 required by law;

59 (d) Families who fail to cooperate in establishing  
60 paternity or obtaining child support, as required by law;

61 (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
62 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor  
63 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and  
64 has not successfully completed a high school education or its  
65 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational  
66 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma

67 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training  
68 program approved by the department;

69 (f) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
70 years of age, is not married, has a minor child in his or her  
71 care, and does not reside in a place or residence maintained by a  
72 parent, legal guardian or other adult relative or the individual  
73 as such parent's, guardian's or adult relative's own home;

74 (g) Any minor child who has been, or is expected by a  
75 parent or other caretaker relative of the child to be, absent from  
76 the home for a period of more than thirty (30) days;

77 (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker  
78 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of  
79 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day  
80 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day  
81 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the  
82 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day  
83 period;

84 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the  
85 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the  
86 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the  
87 individual become and remain employed, or to participate  
88 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under  
89 subsections (6)(c) and (d);

90 (j) A parent or caretaker relative who has not engaged  
91 in an allowable work activity once the department determines the  
92 parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in work, or once  
93 the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance  
94 under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not  
95 consecutive, whichever is earlier;

96 (k) Any individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution,  
97 or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the  
98 jurisdiction from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an  
99 attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the

100 place from which the individual flees, or who is violating a  
101 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state  
102 law;

103 (l) Aliens who are not qualified under federal law;

104 (m) For a period of ten (10) years following  
105 conviction, individuals convicted in federal or state court of  
106 having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect  
107 to the individual's place of residence in order to receive TANF,  
108 food stamps or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance under  
109 Title XVI or Title XIX simultaneously from two (2) or more states;  
110 and

111 (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal  
112 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance.

113 (4) (a) Any person who is otherwise eligible for TANF  
114 benefits, including custodial and noncustodial parents, shall be  
115 required to attend school and meet the monthly attendance  
116 requirement as provided in this subsection if all of the following  
117 apply:

118 (i) The person is under age twenty (20);

119 (ii) The person has not graduated from a public or  
120 private high school or obtained a GED equivalent;

121 (iii) The person is physically able to attend  
122 school and is not excused from attending school; and

123 (iv) If the person is a parent or caretaker  
124 relative with whom a dependent child is living, child care is  
125 available for the child.

126 The monthly attendance requirement under this subsection  
127 shall be attendance at the school in which the person is enrolled  
128 for each day during a month that the school conducts classes in  
129 which the person is enrolled, with not more than two (2) absences  
130 during the month for reasons other than the reasons listed in  
131 paragraph (e)(iv) of this subsection. Persons who fail to meet  
132 participation requirements in this subsection shall be subject to

133 sanctions as provided in paragraph (f) of this subsection.

134 (b) As used in this subsection, "school" means any one

135 (1) of the following:

136 (i) A school as defined in Section 37-13-91(2);

137 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education  
138 program; or

139 (iii) A course of study meeting the standards  
140 established by the State Department of Education for the granting  
141 of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation.

142 (c) If any compulsory-school-age child, as defined in  
143 Section 37-13-91(2), to which TANF eligibility requirements apply  
144 is not in compliance with the compulsory school attendance  
145 requirements of Section 37-13-91(6), the superintendent of schools  
146 of the school district in which the child is enrolled or eligible  
147 to attend shall notify the county department of human services of  
148 the child's noncompliance. The Department of Human Services shall  
149 review school attendance information as provided under this  
150 paragraph at all initial eligibility determinations and upon  
151 subsequent report of unsatisfactory attendance.

152 (d) The signature of a person on an application for  
153 TANF benefits constitutes permission for the release of school  
154 attendance records for that person or for any child residing with  
155 that person. The department shall request information from the  
156 child's school district about the child's attendance in the school  
157 district's most recently completed semester of attendance. If  
158 information about the child's previous school attendance is not  
159 available or cannot be verified, the department shall require the  
160 child to meet the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)  
161 semester or until the information is obtained. The department  
162 shall use the attendance information provided by a school district  
163 to verify attendance for a child. The department shall review  
164 with the parent or caretaker relative a child's claim that he or  
165 she has a good cause for not attending school.

166 A school district shall provide information to the department  
167 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school  
168 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a  
169 written request for such information from the department. The  
170 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as  
171 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to  
172 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may  
173 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's  
174 absence.

175 (e) A child who is required to attend school to meet  
176 the requirements under this subsection shall comply except when  
177 there is good cause, which shall be demonstrated by any of the  
178 following circumstances:

179 (i) The minor parent is the caretaker of a child  
180 less than twelve (12) weeks old; or

181 (ii) The department determines that child care  
182 services are necessary for the minor parent to attend school and  
183 there is no child care available; or

184 (iii) The child is prohibited by the school  
185 district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This  
186 exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;  
187 however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making  
188 satisfactory progress towards obtaining a GED equivalent shall be  
189 eligible for TANF benefits; or

190 (iv) The child failed to attend school for one or  
191 more of the following reasons:

192 1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child  
193 or the minor parent's child;

194 2. Court-required appearances or temporary  
195 incarceration;

196 3. Medical or dental appointments for the  
197 child or minor parent's child;

198 4. Death of a close relative;

- 199                   5. Observance of a religious holiday;  
200                   6. Family emergency;  
201                   7. Breakdown in transportation;  
202                   8. Suspension; or  
203                   9. Any other circumstance beyond the control  
204 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

205                   (f) Upon determination that a child has failed without  
206 good cause to attend school as required, the department shall  
207 provide written notice to the parent or caretaker relative  
208 (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF benefits) that  
209 specifies:

210                   (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next  
211 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend  
212 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this  
213 subsection;

214                   (ii) The beginning date of the sanction, and the  
215 child to whom the sanction applies;

216                   (iii) The right of the child's parents or  
217 caretaker relative (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF  
218 benefits) to request a fair hearing under this subsection.

219                   The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the  
220 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing  
221 on the department's determination that the child has not been  
222 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative  
223 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,  
224 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that  
225 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly  
226 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny  
227 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in  
228 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue  
229 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child  
230 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has  
231 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child

232 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups  
233 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A  
234 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one  
235 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly  
236 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction  
237 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative  
238 provides written proof from the school district that the child has  
239 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)  
240 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at  
241 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the  
242 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes  
243 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the  
244 next possible payment month.

245 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their  
246 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations  
247 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer  
248 pursuant to Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination  
249 and booster vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health  
250 Officer for children of that age, in order for the parents or  
251 caretaker relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive  
252 TANF benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and  
253 booster vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates  
254 of vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to  
255 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the  
256 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not  
257 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster  
258 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to  
259 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall  
260 sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%)  
261 for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until  
262 the requirements of this subsection are met.

263 (6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for  
264 TANF assistance is an employable person, as determined by the



265 Department of Human Services, the person shall be required to  
266 engage in an allowable work activity once the department  
267 determines the parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in  
268 work, or once the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF  
269 assistance under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether  
270 or not consecutive, whichever is earlier. No TANF benefits shall  
271 be given to any person to whom this section applies who fails  
272 without good cause to comply with the Employability Development  
273 Plan prepared by the department for the person, or who has refused  
274 to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education  
275 in which he or she is able to engage, subject to the penalties  
276 prescribed in subsection (6)(e). A person shall be deemed to have  
277 refused to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or  
278 education if he or she:

279 (i) Willfully fails to report for an interview  
280 with respect to employment when requested to do so by the  
281 department; or

282 (ii) Willfully fails to report to the department  
283 the result of a referral to employment; or

284 (iii) Willfully fails to report for allowable work  
285 activities as prescribed in subsections (6)(c) and (d).

286 (b) The Department of Human Services shall operate a  
287 statewide work program for TANF recipients to provide work  
288 activities and supportive services to enable families to become  
289 self-sufficient and improve their competitive position in the work  
290 force in accordance with the requirements of the federal Personal  
291 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996  
292 (Public Law 104-193), as amended, and the regulations promulgated  
293 thereunder. All adults who are not specifically exempt shall be  
294 referred by the department for allowable work activities. An  
295 adult may be exempt from the mandatory work activity requirement  
296 for the following reasons:

297 (i) Incapacity;

298                   (ii) Temporary illness or injury, verified by  
299 physician's certificate;

300                   (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy,  
301 verified by physician's certificate;

302                   (iv) Caretaker of a child under twelve (12)  
303 months, for not more than twelve (12) months of the sixty-month  
304 maximum benefit period;

305                   (v) Caretaker of an ill or incapacitated person,  
306 as verified by physician's certificate;

307                   (vi) Age, if over sixty (60) or under eighteen  
308 (18) years of age;

309                   (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if  
310 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment  
311 plan;

312                   (viii) In a two-parent family, the caretaker of a  
313 severely disabled child, as verified by a physician's certificate;  
314 or

315                   (ix) History of having been a victim of domestic  
316 violence, which has been reported as required by state law and is  
317 substantiated by police reports or court records, and being at  
318 risk of further domestic violence, shall be exempt for a period as  
319 deemed necessary by the department but not to exceed a total of  
320 twelve (12) months, which need not be consecutive, in the  
321 sixty-month maximum benefit period. For the purposes of this  
322 paragraph (ix), "domestic violence" means that an individual has  
323 been subjected to:

324                   1. Physical acts that resulted in, or  
325 threatened to result in, physical injury to the individual;

326                   2. Sexual abuse;

327                   3. Sexual activity involving a dependent  
328 child;

329                   4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of  
330 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or

331 activities;

332                   5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or  
333 sexual abuse;

334                   6. Mental abuse; or

335                   7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

336           (c) For all families, all adults who are not  
337 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work  
338 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per  
339 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty  
340 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for  
341 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following  
342 allowable work activities:

343                   (i) Unsubsidized employment;

344                   (ii) Subsidized private employment;

345                   (iii) Subsidized public employment;

346                   (iv) Work experience (including work associated  
347 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient  
348 private employment is not available;

349                   (v) On-the-job training;

350                   (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance  
351 consistent with federal TANF regulations;

352                   (vii) Community service programs;

353                   (viii) Vocational educational training (not to  
354 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);

355                   (ix) The provision of child care services to an  
356 individual who is participating in a community service program;

357                   (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a  
358 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,  
359 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not  
360 completed high school or received such certificate;

361                   (xi) Education directly related to employment, for  
362 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed  
363 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

364           (d) The following are allowable work activities which  
365 may be attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified  
366 in paragraph (6)(c):

367                   (i) Job skills training directly related to  
368 employment;

369                   (ii) Education directly related to employment for  
370 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high  
371 school equivalency certificate;

372                   (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in  
373 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for  
374 individuals who have not completed high school or received such  
375 equivalency certificate;

376                   (iv) Job search and job readiness assistance  
377 consistent with federal TANF regulations.

378           (e) If any adult or caretaker relative refuses to  
379 participate in allowable work activity as required under this  
380 subsection (6), the following full family TANF benefit penalty  
381 will apply, subject to due process to include notification,  
382 conciliation and a hearing if requested by the recipient:

383                   (i) For the first violation, the department shall  
384 terminate the TANF assistance otherwise payable to the family for  
385 a two-month period or until the person has complied with the  
386 required work activity, whichever is longer;

387                   (ii) For the second violation, the department  
388 shall terminate the TANF assistance otherwise payable to the  
389 family for a six-month period or until the person has complied  
390 with the required work activity, whichever is longer;

391                   (iii) For the third violation, the department  
392 shall terminate the TANF assistance otherwise payable to the  
393 family for a twelve-month period or until the person has complied  
394 with the required work activity, whichever is longer;

395                   (iv) For the fourth violation, the person shall be  
396 permanently disqualified.

397 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or  
398 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the  
399 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity  
400 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this  
401 subsection (6)(e), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not  
402 be terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting  
403 that person's applicable work requirement or who is not required  
404 to work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for  
405 Medicaid benefits regardless of the disqualification of their  
406 parent or caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this  
407 subsection (6), unless prohibited by state or federal law.

408 (f) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year  
409 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive  
410 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements  
411 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall  
412 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the  
413 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements  
414 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

415 (g) No adult in a work activity required under this  
416 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other  
417 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially  
418 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF  
419 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has  
420 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise  
421 caused an involuntary reduction of its work force in order to fill  
422 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.  
423 The Mississippi Employment Security Commission, established under  
424 Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial hearing  
425 officers to hear and decide claims by employees of violations of  
426 this paragraph (g). The hearing officer shall hear all the  
427 evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such  
428 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a  
429 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be

430 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the  
431 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the  
432 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may  
433 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the  
434 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against  
435 the commission for the review of such decision, in which action  
436 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall  
437 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which  
438 shall be certified to the court by the commission in the manner  
439 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court  
440 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its  
441 decision as provided in that section.

442 (7) The Department of Human Services may provide child care  
443 for eligible participants who require such care so that they may  
444 accept employment or remain employed. The department may also  
445 provide child care for those participating in the TANF program  
446 when it is determined that they are satisfactorily involved in  
447 education, training or other allowable work activities. The  
448 department may contract with Head Start agencies to provide child  
449 care services to TANF recipients. The department may also arrange  
450 for child care by use of contract or vouchers, provide vouchers in  
451 advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a child care provider,  
452 or use any other arrangement deemed appropriate by the department,  
453 and may establish different reimbursement rates for child care  
454 services depending on the category of the facility or home. Any  
455 center-based or group home child care facility under this  
456 paragraph shall be licensed by the State Department of Health  
457 pursuant to law. When child care is being provided in the child's  
458 own home, in the home of a relative of the child, or in any other  
459 unlicensed setting, the provision of such child care may be  
460 monitored on a random basis by the Department of Human services or  
461 the State Department of Health. Transitional child care  
462 assistance may be continued if it is necessary for parents to

463 maintain employment once support has ended, unless prohibited  
464 under state or federal law. Transitional child care assistance  
465 may be provided for up to twenty-four (24) months after the last  
466 month during which the family was eligible for TANF assistance, if  
467 federal funds are available for such child care assistance.

468 (8) The Department of Human Services may provide  
469 transportation or provide reasonable reimbursement for  
470 transportation expenses that are necessary for individuals to be  
471 able to participate in allowable work activity under the TANF  
472 program.

473 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of  
474 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive  
475 calendar months following the month in which the participating  
476 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased  
477 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours  
478 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid  
479 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only  
480 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for  
481 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are  
482 available to provide such assistance.

483 (10) The department shall require applicants for and  
484 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a  
485 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant  
486 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the  
487 state.

488 (11) (a) The department shall enter into an agreement with  
489 the State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow  
490 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state  
491 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating  
492 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits  
493 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF  
494 recipients.

495 (b) Each state agency in the state personnel system

496 shall establish recruitment and hiring goals that target ten  
497 percent (10%) of all jobs requiring a high school diploma or less  
498 to be filled with recipients of TANF benefits or food stamps. The  
499 State Personnel Board may add a question concerning receipt of  
500 TANF benefits or food stamps to the state employment application  
501 for the purposes of targeting these applicants. Each state agency  
502 shall report annually to the State Personnel Board and to the  
503 department the number of recipients of TANF benefits and food  
504 stamps who have been employed in comparison to the established  
505 goal of the agency. The State Personnel Board shall adopt rules  
506 and regulations for state agencies to follow in complying with  
507 this subsection (11).

508         (c) This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the  
509 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if  
510 federal funds are available therefor.

511         (12) No new TANF program requirement or restriction  
512 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable  
513 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation  
514 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after the  
515 effective date of this act, unless such is specifically authorized  
516 by an amendment to this section by the Legislature.

517         SECTION 2. Whenever a recipient of Temporary Assistance for  
518 Needy Families (TANF) benefits seeks employment opportunities  
519 through the Mississippi State Employment Service, the Mississippi  
520 Employment Security Commission shall enter the recipient in the  
521 job placement services of the State Employment Service and shall  
522 provide intensive job development and job referral assistance to  
523 the recipient in order to help the recipient become employed.

524         SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
525 and after July 1, 1999.