

By: Representative Moody

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 740

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DELAY THE DEADLINES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
3 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ON-LINE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT)
4 SYSTEM FOR FOOD STAMPS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 43-1-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 43-1-28. (1) The Department of Human Services shall develop
9 an on-line electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the food
10 stamp program in Mississippi as an alternative to issuing food
11 stamp coupons. The EBT system developed by the department under
12 this section shall (a) provide that food stamp benefits are stored
13 in and issued from a central computer data base and are
14 electronically accessed by households at the point of sale through
15 the use of reusable magnetic-stripe plastic cards; and (b) meet
16 all requirements and standards specified in 7 USCS Section 2016(i)
17 and the rules and regulations issued under that provision for
18 approval by the Secretary of the United States Department of
19 Agriculture.

20 (2) The department shall finish development of the EBT
21 system no later than October 1, 2000, and shall submit an
22 application to the Secretary of the United States Department of
23 Agriculture for approval of the system. After the EBT system has
24 been approved, the department shall implement and operate the
25 system as a pilot project in not less than five (5) counties
26 selected by the department, which counties shall represent the
27 different geographical areas, population levels and economic

28 levels of the state. After the pilot project has been evaluated
29 and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, and
30 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated
31 therefor, the system may be expanded statewide at a rate
32 determined by the Executive Director of the Department of Human
33 Services. The system shall be expanded and implemented statewide
34 not later than October 1, 2001.

35 (3) The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount
36 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of
37 administering the EBT system.

38 (4) The Department of Human Services may develop an on-line
39 electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the Temporary
40 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Mississippi as an
41 alternative to issuing cash or voucher payments. The EBT system
42 developed by the department under this section shall (a) provide
43 that TANF benefits are stored in and issued from a central
44 computer data base and are electronically accessed; and (b) meet
45 all requirements and standards specified in the Personal
46 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
47 (Public Law 104-193), and the rules and regulations issued under
48 that act. The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount
49 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of
50 administering the EBT system for TANF payments.

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