

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Public Health and
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2655

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
2 ARE CONVICTED FELONS SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM TANF, HOUSING,
3 FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE, MEDICAID ASSISTANCE, AND ANY OTHER TRANSFER
4 PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY SUCH PAYMENTS
5 WHICH ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEPENDENT CHILD OF SUCH CONVICTED
6 FELON SHALL BE PLACED IN A TRUST FUND ACCOUNT ADMINISTERED BY THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR SUCH DEPENDENT CHILD; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) From and after July 1, 1999, any individual
11 convicted of a felony in federal or state court, or convicted of a
12 misdemeanor for violating the Uniform Controlled Substances Law or
13 the child abuse or child neglect statutes, or who is fleeing to
14 avoid prosecution after conviction of a felony under the laws of
15 the jurisdiction from which the individual flees, or who is
16 violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under a
17 federal or state law, shall be disqualified for, and denied
18 benefits for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families payments,
19 federal housing assistance payments, federal Food Stamp
20 assistance, Medicaid assistance, and any other transfer payment
21 assistance from the federal or state government.

22 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), any
23 such transfer payments otherwise payable to the convicted
24 individual which are for the benefit of the dependent child of
25 such individual shall be placed in a trust fund to be administered
26 by the Department of Human Services for the benefit of such
27 dependent child. The Department of Human Services is empowered to
28 receive any such payments in trust and expend such transfer
29 payments for the benefit of such dependent child or children, and

30 shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to expend the
31 trust and implement this program as is in the best interest of the
32 child or children.

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