

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee, Johnson (19th),  
Hawks

To: Public Health and  
Welfare;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2834

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE A LUMP-SUM PAYMENT TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY  
3 FAMILIES (TANF) RECIPIENTS WHO BECOME DISQUALIFIED FOR ASSISTANCE  
4 PAYMENTS AS A RESULT OF GETTING MARRIED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy  
9 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent  
10 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the  
11 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary  
12 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each  
13 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the  
14 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the  
15 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when  
16 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the  
17 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and  
18 support available to the child to provide such child with a  
19 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The  
20 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
21 amount not to exceed Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) per month; the second  
22 family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
23 amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per month; and  
24 each additional family member in the dependent child's budget an  
25 amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per month. The  
26 maximum for any individual family member in the dependent child's  
27 budget may be exceeded for foster or medical care or in cases of

28 mentally retarded or physically handicapped children. TANF  
29 benefits granted shall be specifically limited only (a) to  
30 children existing or conceived at the time the caretaker relative  
31 initially applies and qualifies for such assistance, unless this  
32 limitation is specifically waived by the department, or (b) to a  
33 child born following a twelve (12) consecutive month period of  
34 discontinued benefits by the caretaker relative.

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

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

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

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

49 (c) Families not assigning to the state any rights a  
50 family member may have, on behalf of the family member or of any  
51 other person for whom the family member has applied for or is  
52 receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, as  
53 required by law;

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

56 (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
57 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor  
58 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and  
59 has not successfully completed a high school education or its  
60 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational  
61 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma  
62 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training  
63 program approved by the department;

64 (f) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)

65 years of age, is not married, has a minor child in his or her  
66 care, and does not reside in a place or residence maintained by a  
67 parent, legal guardian or other adult relative or the individual  
68 as such parent's, guardian's or adult relative's own home;

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

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

79 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the  
80 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the  
81 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the  
82 individual become and remain employed, or to participate  
83 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under  
84 subsection (6)(c);

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

91 (k) Any individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution,  
92 or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the  
93 jurisdiction from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an  
94 attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the  
95 place from which the individual flees, or who is violating a  
96 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state  
97 law;

98           (1) Aliens who are not qualified under federal law;  
99           (m) For a period of ten (10) years following  
100 conviction, individuals convicted in federal or state court of  
101 having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect  
102 to the individual's place of residence in order to receive TANF,  
103 food stamps or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance under  
104 Title XVI or Title XIX simultaneously from two (2) or more states;  
105 and

106           (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal  
107 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance.

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

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

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

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

118                   (iv) If the person is a parent or caretaker  
119 relative with whom a dependent child is living, child care is  
120 available for the child.

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

129           (b) As used in this subsection, "school" means any one  
130 (1) of the following:

131 (i) A school as defined in Section 37-13-91(2);  
132 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education  
133 program; or  
134 (iii) A course of study meeting the standards  
135 established by the State Department of Education for the granting  
136 of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation.

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

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

161 A school district shall provide information to the department  
162 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school  
163 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a

164 written request for such information from the department. The  
165 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as  
166 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to  
167 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may  
168 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's  
169 absence.

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

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

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

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

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

187 1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child  
188 or the minor parent's child;

189 2. Court-required appearances or temporary  
190 incarceration;

191 3. Medical or dental appointments for the  
192 child or minor parent's child;

193 4. Death of a close relative;

194 5. Observance of a religious holiday;

195 6. Family emergency;

196 7. Breakdown in transportation;

197                   8. Suspension; or  
198                   9. Any other circumstance beyond the control  
199 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

200           (f) Upon determination that a child has failed without  
201 good cause to attend school as required, the department shall  
202 provide written notice to the parent or caretaker relative  
203 (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF benefits) that  
204 specifies:

205                   (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next  
206 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend  
207 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this  
208 subsection;

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

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

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

230 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly  
231 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction  
232 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative  
233 provides written proof from the school district that the child has  
234 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)  
235 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at  
236 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the  
237 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes  
238 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the  
239 next possible payment month.

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

258 (6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for  
259 TANF assistance is an employable person, as determined by the  
260 Department of Human Services, the person shall be required to  
261 engage in an allowable work activity once the department  
262 determines the parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in



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

274 (i) Willfully fails to report for an interview  
275 with respect to employment when requested to do so by the  
276 department; or

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

279 (iii) Willfully fails to report for allowable work  
280 activities as prescribed in subsection (6)(c).

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

292 (i) Incapacity;

293 (ii) Temporary illness or injury, verified by  
294 physician's certificate;

295 (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy,

296 verified by physician's certificate;

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

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

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

304 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if  
305 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment  
306 plan;

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

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

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

321 2. Sexual abuse;

322 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent  
323 child;

324 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of  
325 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or  
326 activities;

327 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or  
328 sexual abuse;

329                   6. Mental abuse; or  
330                   7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

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

- 338                   (i) Unsubsidized employment;
- 339                   (ii) Subsidized private employment;
- 340                   (iii) Subsidized public employment;
- 341                   (iv) Work experience (including work associated  
342 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient  
343 private employment is not available;
- 344                   (v) On-the-job training;
- 345                   (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance  
346 consistent with federal TANF regulations;
- 347                   (vii) Community service programs;
- 348                   (viii) Vocational educational training (not to  
349 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);
- 350                   (ix) The provision of child care services to an  
351 individual who is participating in a community service program;
- 352                   (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a  
353 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,  
354 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not  
355 completed high school or received such certificate;
- 356                   (xi) Education directly related to employment, for  
357 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed  
358 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

359           The following are allowable work activities which may be  
360 attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified above.

- 361                   (i) Job skills training directly related to

362 employment;

363 (ii) Education directly related to employment for  
364 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high  
365 school equivalency certificate;

366 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in  
367 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for  
368 individuals who have not completed high school or received such  
369 equivalency certificate;

370 (iv) Job search and job readiness assistance  
371 consistent with federal TANF regulations.

372 (d) If any adult or caretaker relative refuses to  
373 participate in allowable work activity as required under this  
374 subsection (6), the following full family TANF benefit penalty  
375 will apply, subject to due process to include notification,  
376 conciliation and a hearing if requested by the recipient:

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

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

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

389 (iv) For the fourth violation, the person shall be  
390 permanently disqualified.

391 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or  
392 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the  
393 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity  
394 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this

395 subsection (6)(d), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not  
396 be terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting  
397 that person's applicable work requirement or who is not required  
398 to work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for  
399 Medicaid benefits regardless of the disqualification of their  
400 parent or caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this  
401 subsection (6), unless prohibited by state or federal law.

402 (e) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year  
403 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive  
404 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements  
405 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall  
406 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the  
407 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements  
408 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

409 (f) No adult in a work activity required under this  
410 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other  
411 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially  
412 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF  
413 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has  
414 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise  
415 caused an involuntary reduction of its work force in order to fill  
416 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.  
417 The Mississippi Employment Security Commission, established under  
418 Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial hearing  
419 officers to hear and decide claims by employees of violations of  
420 this paragraph (f). The hearing officer shall hear all the  
421 evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such  
422 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a  
423 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be  
424 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the  
425 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the  
426 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may  
427 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the

428 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against  
429 the commission for the review of such decision, in which action  
430 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall  
431 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which  
432 shall be certified to the court by the commission in the manner  
433 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court  
434 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its  
435 decision as provided in that section.

436 (7) The Department of Human Services may provide child care  
437 for eligible participants who require such care so that they may  
438 accept employment or remain employed. The department may also  
439 provide child care for those participating in the TANF program  
440 when it is determined that they are satisfactorily involved in  
441 education, training or other allowable work activities. The  
442 department may contract with Head Start agencies to provide child  
443 care services to TANF recipients. The department may also arrange  
444 for child care by use of contract or vouchers, provide vouchers in  
445 advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a child care provider,  
446 or use any other arrangement deemed appropriate by the department,  
447 and may establish different reimbursement rates for child care  
448 services depending on the category of the facility or home. Any  
449 center-based or group home child care facility under this  
450 paragraph shall be licensed by the State Department of Health  
451 pursuant to law. When child care is being provided in the child's  
452 own home, in the home of a relative of the child, or in any other  
453 unlicensed setting, the provision of such child care may be  
454 monitored on a random basis by the Department of Human Services or  
455 the State Department of Health. Transitional child care  
456 assistance may be continued if it is necessary for parents to  
457 maintain employment once support has ended, unless prohibited  
458 under state or federal law. Transitional child care assistance  
459 may be provided for up to twenty-four (24) months after the last  
460 month during which the family was eligible for TANF assistance, if

461 federal funds are available for such child care assistance.

462 (8) The Department of Human Services may provide  
463 transportation or provide reasonable reimbursement for  
464 transportation expenses that are necessary for individuals to be  
465 able to participate in allowable work activity under the TANF  
466 program.

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

477 (10) The department shall require applicants for and  
478 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a  
479 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant  
480 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the  
481 state.

482 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the  
483 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow  
484 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state  
485 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating  
486 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits  
487 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF  
488 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the  
489 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if  
490 federal funds are available therefor.

491 (12) The Department of Human Services may make a one-time  
492 lump-sum payment to any TANF participant who becomes disqualified  
493 for TANF assistance payments as a result of getting married.

494 Such payment shall only be made following one (1) year of the  
495 participant's marriage, to be verified by the department. The  
496 amount of the lump-sum payment shall be equal to seventy-five  
497 percent (75%) of the aggregate annual payment which would have  
498 been made to the participant if the person had remained eligible  
499 for TANF assistance. In the event that the participant's marriage  
500 also disqualifies the participant for food stamps and/or Medicaid  
501 assistance, the amount of the lump-sum payment shall be equal to  
502 one hundred percent (100%) of the aggregate annual payment which  
503 would have been made to the participant if the person had remained  
504 eligible for TANF assistance.

505       (13) No new TANF program requirement or restriction  
506 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable  
507 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation  
508 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after the  
509 effective date of this act, unless such is specifically authorized  
510 by an amendment to this section by the Legislature.

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