

By: Moody

To: Public Health and
WelfareCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1050

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE DATES REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
3 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE ON-LINE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER
4 (EBT) SYSTEM FOR FOOD STAMPS; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
5 SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO
6 UTILIZE EBT AGREEMENTS FROM OTHER STATES OR MULTISTATE COALITION
7 AGREEMENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE STATE IS UNABLE TO ACQUIRE AN
8 EBT CONTRACT AFTER GOING THROUGH THE APPROVED BIDDING PROCESS, THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
10 TECHNOLOGY SERVICES MAY NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH ANY VENDOR WHO
11 MEETS THEIR EBT REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. Section 43-1-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:[CRG1]

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

27 (2) The department shall finish development of the EBT
28 system no later than October 1, 2001, and shall submit an
29 application to the Secretary of the United States Department of
30 Agriculture for approval of the system. After the EBT system has

31 been approved, the department may, in its discretion, implement
32 and operate the system as a pilot project in not less than five
33 (5) counties selected by the department, which counties shall
34 represent the different geographical areas, population levels and
35 economic levels of the state. After the pilot project has been
36 evaluated and approved by the United States Department of
37 Agriculture, and subject to the availability of funds specifically
38 appropriated therefor, the system may be expanded statewide at a
39 rate determined by the Executive Director of the Department of
40 Human Services. The system shall be expanded and implemented
41 statewide not later than October 1, 2002.

42 (3) The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount
43 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of
44 administering the EBT system.

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

58 (5) In order to facilitate the acquisition and deployment of
59 EBT products and services in Mississippi, the Department of Human
60 Services (DHS) and the Mississippi Department of Information
61 Technology Services (MDITS), in their discretion, may utilize EBT
62 agreements from other states and/or multistate coalition
63 agreements that allow other states to acquire EBT products and
64 services. If the state is unable to acquire an EBT contract after
65 going through the approved MDITS bidding process, DHS and MDITS
66 may negotiate an EBT contract with any vendor who meets the EBT
67 requirements of DHS and MDITS.

68 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after July 1, 2000.