

By: Moody

To: Public Health and  
WelfareHOUSE BILL NO. 1050  
(As Passed the House)

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.