

By: Blackmon, Simmons, Turner, Johnson  
(38th)

To: Public Health and  
Welfare;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2344

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE CHILD  
3 CARE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE TEMPORARY  
4 ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT TANF  
5 RECIPIENTS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE  
6 ASSISTANCE FOR AS LONG AS THE FAMILY INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED 200%  
7 OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
8 SERVICES TO APPLY FOR AND DRAW DOWN ALL AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS  
9 FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES; TO AUTHORIZE A STATE GENERAL FUND MATCH  
10 OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO PROVIDE OR EXPAND CHILD CARE SERVICES TO  
11 ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

15 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy  
16 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent  
17 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the  
18 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary  
19 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each  
20 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the  
21 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the  
22 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when  
23 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the  
24 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and  
25 support available to the child to provide such child with a

26 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The  
27 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
28 amount not to exceed One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00) per month;  
29 the second family member in the dependent child's budget may  
30 receive an amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per  
31 month; and each additional family member in the dependent child's  
32 budget an amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per  
33 month. The maximum for any individual family member in the  
34 dependent child's budget may be exceeded for foster or medical  
35 care or in cases of mentally retarded or physically handicapped  
36 children. TANF benefits granted shall be specifically limited  
37 only (a) to children existing or conceived at the time the  
38 caretaker relative initially applies and qualifies for such  
39 assistance, unless this limitation is specifically waived by the  
40 department, or (b) to a child born following a twelve (12)  
41 consecutive month period of discontinued benefits by the caretaker  
42 relative.

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

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

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

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

57           (c) Families not assigning to the state any rights a  
58 family member may have, on behalf of the family member or of any  
59 other person for whom the family member has applied for or is  
60 receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, as  
61 required by law;

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

64           (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
65 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor  
66 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and  
67 has not successfully completed a high school education or its  
68 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational  
69 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma  
70 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training  
71 program approved by the department;

72           (f) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
73 years of age, is not married, has a minor child in his or her  
74 care, and does not reside in a place or residence maintained by a  
75 parent, legal guardian or other adult relative or the individual  
76 as such parent's, guardian's or adult relative's own home;

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

80           (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker  
81 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of  
82 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day  
83 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day  
84 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the

85 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day  
86 period;

87 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the  
88 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the  
89 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the  
90 individual become and remain employed, or to participate  
91 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under  
92 subsection (6)(c);

93 (j) A parent or caretaker relative who has not engaged  
94 in an allowable work activity once the department determines the  
95 parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in work, or once  
96 the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance  
97 under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not  
98 consecutive, whichever is earlier;

99 (k) Any individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution,  
100 or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the  
101 jurisdiction from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an  
102 attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the  
103 place from which the individual flees, or who is violating a  
104 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state  
105 law;

106 (l) Aliens who are not qualified under federal law;

107 (m) For a period of ten (10) years following  
108 conviction, individuals convicted in federal or state court of  
109 having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect  
110 to the individual's place of residence in order to receive TANF,  
111 food stamps or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance under  
112 Title XVI or Title XIX simultaneously from two (2) or more states;

113 and

114 (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal  
115 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance.

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

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

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

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

126 (iv) If the person is a parent or caretaker  
127 relative with whom a dependent child is living, child care is  
128 available for the child.

129 The monthly attendance requirement under this subsection  
130 shall be attendance at the school in which the person is enrolled  
131 for each day during a month that the school conducts classes in  
132 which the person is enrolled, with not more than two (2) absences  
133 during the month for reasons other than the reasons listed in  
134 paragraph (e)(iv) of this subsection. Persons who fail to meet  
135 participation requirements in this subsection shall be subject to  
136 sanctions as provided in paragraph (f) of this subsection.

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

139 (i) A school as defined in Section 37-13-91(2);

140 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education

141 program; or

142 (iii) A course of study meeting the standards  
143 established by the State Department of Education for the granting  
144 of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation.

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

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

169           A school district shall provide information to the department  
170 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school  
171 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a  
172 written request for such information from the department. The  
173 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as  
174 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to  
175 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may  
176 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's  
177 absence.

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

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

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

187                   (iii) The child is prohibited by the school  
188 district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This  
189 exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;  
190 however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making  
191 satisfactory progress towards obtaining a GED equivalent shall be  
192 eligible for TANF benefits; or

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

195                           1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child  
196 or the minor parent's child;

- 197                   2. Court-required appearances or temporary  
198 incarceration;
- 199                   3. Medical or dental appointments for the  
200 child or minor parent's child;
- 201                   4. Death of a close relative;
- 202                   5. Observance of a religious holiday;
- 203                   6. Family emergency;
- 204                   7. Breakdown in transportation;
- 205                   8. Suspension; or
- 206                   9. Any other circumstance beyond the control  
207 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

208           (f) Upon determination that a child has failed without  
209 good cause to attend school as required, the department shall  
210 provide written notice to the parent or caretaker relative  
211 (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF benefits) that  
212 specifies:

213                   (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next  
214 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend  
215 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this  
216 subsection;

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

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

222           The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the  
223 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing  
224 on the department's determination that the child has not been



225 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative  
226 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,  
227 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that  
228 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly  
229 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny  
230 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in  
231 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue  
232 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child  
233 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has  
234 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child  
235 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups  
236 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A  
237 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one  
238 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly  
239 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction  
240 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative  
241 provides written proof from the school district that the child has  
242 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)  
243 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at  
244 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the  
245 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes  
246 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the  
247 next possible payment month.

248 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their  
249 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations  
250 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer  
251 pursuant to Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination  
252 and booster vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health

253 Officer for children of that age, in order for the parents or  
254 caretaker relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive  
255 TANF benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and  
256 booster vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates  
257 of vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to  
258 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the  
259 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not  
260 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster  
261 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to  
262 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall  
263 sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%)  
264 for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until  
265 the requirements of this subsection are met.

266 (6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for  
267 TANF assistance is an employable person, as determined by the  
268 Department of Human Services, the person shall be required to  
269 engage in an allowable work activity once the department  
270 determines the parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in  
271 work, or once the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF  
272 assistance under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether  
273 or not consecutive, whichever is earlier. No TANF benefits shall  
274 be given to any person to whom this section applies who fails  
275 without good cause to comply with the Employability Development  
276 Plan prepared by the department for the person, or who has refused  
277 to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education  
278 in which he or she is able to engage, subject to the penalties  
279 prescribed in subsection (6)(d). A person shall be deemed to have  
280 refused to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or

281 education if he or she:

282 (i) Willfully fails to report for an interview  
283 with respect to employment when requested to do so by the  
284 department; or

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

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

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

300 (i) Incapacity;

301 (ii) Temporary illness or injury, verified by  
302 physician's certificate;

303 (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy,  
304 verified by physician's certificate;

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

308 (v) Caretaker of an ill or incapacitated person,

309 as verified by physician's certificate;

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

312 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if  
313 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment  
314 plan;

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

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

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

329 2. Sexual abuse;

330 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent  
331 child;

332 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of  
333 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or  
334 activities;

335 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or  
336 sexual abuse;

337                           6. Mental abuse; or

338                           7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

339                   (c) For all families, all adults who are not

340 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work

341 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per

342 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty

343 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for

344 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following

345 allowable work activities:

346                   (i) Unsubsidized employment;

347                   (ii) Subsidized private employment;

348                   (iii) Subsidized public employment;

349                   (iv) Work experience (including work associated

350 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient

351 private employment is not available;

352                   (v) On-the-job training;

353                   (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance

354 consistent with federal TANF regulations;

355                   (vii) Community service programs;

356                   (viii) Vocational educational training (not to

357 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);

358                   (ix) The provision of child care services to an

359 individual who is participating in a community service program;

360                   (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a

361 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,

362 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not

363 completed high school or received such certificate;

364                   (xi) Education directly related to employment, for

365 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed  
366 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

367 The following are allowable work activities which may be  
368 attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified above:

369 (i) Job skills training directly related to  
370 employment;

371 (ii) Education directly related to employment for  
372 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high  
373 school equivalency certificate;

374 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in  
375 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for  
376 individuals who have not completed high school or received such  
377 equivalency certificate;

378 (iv) Job search and job readiness assistance  
379 consistent with federal TANF regulations.

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

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

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

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

397 (iv) For the fourth violation, the person shall be  
398 permanently disqualified.

399 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or  
400 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the  
401 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity  
402 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this  
403 subsection (6)(d), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not  
404 be terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting  
405 that person's applicable work requirement or who is not required  
406 to work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for  
407 Medicaid benefits regardless of the disqualification of their  
408 parent or caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this  
409 subsection (6), unless prohibited by state or federal law.

410 (e) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year  
411 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive  
412 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements  
413 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall  
414 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the  
415 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements  
416 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

417 (f) No adult in a work activity required under this  
418 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other  
419 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially  
420 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF

421 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has  
422 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise  
423 caused an involuntary reduction of its work force in order to fill  
424 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.  
425 The Mississippi Employment Security Commission, established under  
426 Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial hearing  
427 officers to hear and decide claims by employees of violations of  
428 this paragraph (f). The hearing officer shall hear all the  
429 evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such  
430 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a  
431 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be  
432 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the  
433 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the  
434 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may  
435 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the  
436 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against  
437 the commission for the review of such decision, in which action  
438 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall  
439 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which  
440 shall be certified to the court by the commission in the manner  
441 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court  
442 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its  
443 decision as provided in that section.

444 (7) The Department of Human Services shall provide child  
445 care for eligible participants who require such care so that they  
446 may accept employment or remain employed. The department shall  
447 also provide child care for those participating in the TANF  
448 program when it is determined that they are satisfactorily



449 involved in education, training or other allowable work  
450 activities. The department may contract with Head Start agencies  
451 to provide child care services to TANF recipients. The department  
452 may also arrange for child care by use of contract or vouchers,  
453 provide vouchers in advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a  
454 child care provider, or use any other arrangement deemed  
455 appropriate by the department, and may establish different  
456 reimbursement rates for child care services depending on the  
457 category of the facility or home. Any center-based or group home  
458 child care facility under this paragraph shall be licensed by the  
459 State Department of Health pursuant to law. When child care is  
460 being provided in the child's own home, in the home of a relative  
461 of the child, or in any other unlicensed setting, the provision of  
462 such child care may be monitored on a random basis by the  
463 Department of Human services or the State Department of Health.  
464 Transitional child care assistance may be continued if it is  
465 necessary for parents to maintain employment once support has  
466 ended, unless prohibited under state or federal law. Transitional  
467 child care assistance shall be provided \* \* \* after the last month  
468 during which the family was eligible for TANF assistance for as  
469 long as the family income does not exceed two hundred percent  
470 (200%) of the federal poverty level, if federal funds are  
471 available for such child care assistance. In order to maximize  
472 the use of federal funds, the Department of Human Services shall  
473 apply for and draw down the total amount of federal funds  
474 available to the State of Mississippi for providing child care and  
475 transitional child care services to eligible families under this  
476 subsection (7). To the extent of appropriations specifically made

477 available by the Legislature, the Department of Human Services  
478 shall match the federal funds with state funds on a  
479 dollar-for-dollar basis, to provide or expand child care services  
480 to eligible individuals. State funds provided under this  
481 subsection shall be expended only for the following reasons:

482 (a) The construction, purchase lease or improvement of  
483 buildings or other facilities.

484 (b) The purchase or improvement of land.

485 (c) The purchase or lease of equipment, including  
486 vehicles.

487 (d) Start-up and operation costs.

488 (e) Initial operating expenses.

489 (f) Providing direct services to qualified families  
490 under this act or expanding existing direct services to such  
491 families. The department shall provide a yearly report to the  
492 Legislature which details the number of children who are cared for  
493 and the types of services that are provided, using such federal  
494 and state funds. All application forms for federal or state child  
495 care funds under this subsection shall be simple and  
496 user-friendly.

497 (8) The Department of Human Services shall provide  
498 transportation or provide reasonable reimbursement for  
499 transportation expenses that are necessary for individuals to be  
500 able to participate in allowable work activity under the TANF  
501 program.

502 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of  
503 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive  
504 calendar months following the month in which the participating

505 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased  
506 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours  
507 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid  
508 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only  
509 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for  
510 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are  
511 available to provide such assistance.

512 (10) The department shall require applicants for and  
513 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a  
514 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant  
515 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the  
516 state.

517 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the  
518 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow  
519 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state  
520 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating  
521 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits  
522 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF  
523 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the  
524 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if  
525 federal funds are available therefor.

526 (12) No new TANF program requirement or restriction  
527 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable  
528 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation  
529 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after the  
530 effective date of this act, unless such is specifically authorized  
531 by an amendment to this section by the Legislature.

532 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

533 and after July 1, 2000.