

By: Huggins

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2632  
(As Sent to Governor)

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; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 43-1-28. (1) The Department of Human Services shall develop  
9 an on-line electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the food  
10 stamp program in Mississippi as an alternative to issuing food  
11 stamp coupons. The EBT system developed by the department under  
12 this section shall (a) provide that food stamp benefits are stored  
13 in and issued from a central computer data base and are  
14 electronically accessed by households at the point of sale through  
15 the use of reusable magnetic-stripe plastic cards; and (b) meet  
16 all requirements and standards specified in 7 USCS Section 2016(i)  
17 and the rules and regulations issued under that provision for  
18 approval by the Secretary of the United States Department of  
19 Agriculture.

20 (2) The department shall finish development of the EBT  
21 system no later than October 1, 2001, and shall submit an  
22 application to the Secretary of the United States Department of  
23 Agriculture for approval of the system. After the EBT system has  
24 been approved, the department may, in its discretion, implement  
25 and operate the system as a pilot project in not less than five  
26 (5) counties selected by the department, which counties shall  
27 represent the different geographical areas, population levels and

28 economic levels of the state. After the pilot project has been  
29 evaluated and approved by the United States Department of  
30 Agriculture, and subject to the availability of funds specifically  
31 appropriated therefor, the system may be expanded statewide at a  
32 rate determined by the Executive Director of the Department of  
33 Human Services. The system shall be expanded and implemented  
34 statewide not later than October 1, 2002.

35 (3) The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount  
36 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of  
37 administering the EBT system.

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

51 (5) In order to facilitate the acquisition and deployment of  
52 EBT products and services in Mississippi, the Department of Human  
53 Services (DHS) and the Mississippi Department of Information  
54 Technology Services (MDITS), at their discretion, may utilize EBT  
55 agreements from other states and/or multistate coalition  
56 agreements that allow other states to acquire EBT products and  
57 services. After going through the approved ITS bidding process  
58 and the state is unable to acquire an EBT contract, DHS and ITS  
59 may negotiate an EBT contract with any vendor who meets DHS and  
60 ITS, EBT requirements.

61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after its passage.