

By: Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNOR, THE STATE  
2 PERSONNEL BOARD AND ALL OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
3 ACTIONS TO TRAIN AND EMPLOY WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN STATE JOBS TO  
4 THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

5 WHEREAS, national welfare reform became a reality on August  
6 22, 1996, when President Clinton signed the Personal  
7 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996  
8 that Congress had passed earlier that year; and

9 WHEREAS, during the 1997 Regular Session, the Mississippi  
10 Legislature enacted a bill to implement the federal welfare reform  
11 law in this state and the Governor signed the bill on March 12,  
12 1997; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal welfare reform law replaced the Aid to  
14 Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with the Temporary  
15 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides block  
16 grants to states to provide time-limited cash assistance to needy  
17 families; and

18 WHEREAS, one of the main purposes of the federal welfare law  
19 is to require able-bodied TANF recipients to participate in work  
20 activities for a certain number of hours per week after they have  
21 received TANF benefits for 24 months, and each state must meet  
22 minimum work participation rates for the state's TANF caseload or

23 the state will be sanctioned; and

24 WHEREAS, many jobs will have to be made available for TANF  
25 recipients in order for the recipients and the state to meet the  
26 work requirements of the federal law, and while the private sector  
27 is expected to provide a majority of those jobs, the public sector  
28 also will need to make a number of jobs available if there are to  
29 be enough jobs for TANF recipients and the states to meet the work  
30 requirements; and

31 WHEREAS, on March 8, 1997, President Clinton announced that  
32 the federal government, which is America's largest employer, will  
33 do its part and set an example in hiring welfare recipients, and  
34 issued a directive to the heads of all federal agencies and  
35 departments telling them "to use all available hiring  
36 authorities...to hire people off the welfare rolls into available  
37 jobs in government"; and

38 WHEREAS, Mississippi's just-enacted welfare reform law  
39 requires the Department of Human Services to enter an agreement  
40 with the State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will  
41 allow TANF recipients who qualify for vacant jobs within state  
42 agencies to be placed in state jobs; and

43 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi should lead the way in  
44 hiring TANF recipients and be an example to the private sector,  
45 and should not expect the private sector to provide jobs for TANF  
46 recipients if the state itself does not do so:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we strongly encourage the Governor, the State  
49 Personnel Board and all other state agencies and departments to  
50 take all necessary actions to train and employ TANF recipients in  
51 state jobs to the fullest extent possible.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
53 furnished to the Governor and to the State Personnel Board, which

54 shall provide copies of this resolution to the head of each state  
55 agency and department.