

By: Representative Clarke

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 427

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION TO
2 ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A TOUCH-TONE NATIONAL JOB SEARCH SYSTEM, IN
3 CONJUNCTION WITH THE AMERICA'S JOBLINE NETWORK, IN ORDER TO
4 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL JOB-SEARCH ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WHO ARE
5 DISABLED OR WHO RESIDE IN A COUNTY THAT DOES NOT HAVE AN
6 EMPLOYMENT OFFICE; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTRACT WITH
7 CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING THE
8 SYSTEM; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-33-157 AND 71-5-125, MISSISSIPPI CODE
9 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Rehabilitation Services
12 shall establish and operate a touch-tone telephone national job
13 search system, in conjunction with the America's Jobline Network,
14 in order to provide additional job-search assistance to those
15 persons with a disability or who reside in a county that does not
16 have an employment office.

17 (b) The department may contract with the National Federation
18 of the Blind for financial assistance in establishing the system.

19 (c) The Mississippi Employment Security Commission shall
20 supply the department with lists of available jobs.

21 SECTION 2. Section 37-33-157, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
22 amended as follows:

23 37-33-157. The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall
24 provide the rehabilitation services authorized by law and by the
25 rules, regulations and policies of the board to every individual
26 determined to be eligible therefor, and in carrying out the
27 purposes of this chapter the department is authorized, when
28 consistent with the rules, regulations and policies of the State
29 Board of Rehabilitation Services:



30 (a) To expend funds received either by appropriation or
31 directly from federal or private sources;

32 (b) To cooperate with other departments, agencies and
33 institutions, both public and private, in providing the services
34 authorized by this chapter to disabled individuals, in studying
35 the problems involved therein, and in establishing, developing and
36 providing in conformity with the purposes of this chapter, such
37 programs, facilities and services as may be necessary or
38 desirable;

39 (c) To enter into reciprocal agreements with other
40 states to provide for the services authorized by this chapter to
41 residents of the states concerned;

42 (d) To conduct research and compile statistics relating
43 to the provision of services to or the need of services by
44 disabled individuals;

45 (e) To enter into contractual arrangements with the
46 federal government and with other authorized public agencies or
47 persons for performance of services related to rehabilitation;

48 (f) To contract with schools, hospitals and other
49 agencies, and with doctors, optometrists, nurses, technicians and
50 other persons, for training, physical restoration, transportation
51 and other rehabilitation services;

52 (g) To take such action as may be necessary to enable
53 the department to apply for, accept and receive for the state and
54 its residents the full benefits available under the federal
55 Vocational Rehabilitation Act, and any amendments thereto, and
56 under any other federal legislation or program having as its
57 purpose the providing of, improvement or extension of, vocational
58 rehabilitation services.

59 (h) To establish an Office on the Deaf and Hard of
60 Hearing to provide services and activities authorized under
61 Section 37-33-171.



62 (i) To establish and operate a touch-tone telephone
63 national job search system, in conjunction with the America's
64 Jobline Network, in accordance with Section 1 of House Bill
65 No. , 2001 Regular Session.

66 SECTION 3. Section 71-5-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
67 amended as follows:

68 71-5-125. The commission, with the advice and aid of its
69 advisory councils, shall take all appropriate steps to reduce and
70 prevent unemployment, including, but not limited to, supplying the
71 Department of Rehabilitation Services with lists of available jobs
72 as provided under Section 1 of House Bill No. , 2001 Regular
73 Session; to encourage and assist in the adoption of practical
74 methods of vocational training, retraining, and vocational
75 guidance; to investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the
76 establishment and operation, by municipalities, counties, school
77 districts, and the state, of reserves for public works to be used
78 in times of business depression and unemployment; to promote the
79 re-employment of unemployed workers throughout the state in every
80 other way that may be feasible; and to these ends to carry on and
81 publish the results of investigation and research studies.

82 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after July 1, 2001.

