

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2063

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ISSUE  
3 PHOTO EBT CARDS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
4 (SNAP), TO LIMIT THE CARDHOLDER TO TWO FAMILY MEMBER CARDS PER  
5 YEAR AND TWO REPLACEMENTS PER YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy  
10 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent  
11 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the  
12 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary  
13 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each  
14 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the  
15 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the  
16 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when  
17 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the  
18 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and  
19 support available to the child to provide such child with a



20 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The  
21 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an  
22 amount not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month; the  
23 second family member in the dependent child's budget may receive  
24 an amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per month; and  
25 each additional family member in the dependent child's budget an  
26 amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per month. The  
27 maximum for any individual family member in the dependent child's  
28 budget may be exceeded for foster or medical care or in cases of  
29 children with an intellectual disability or a physical disability.  
30 TANF benefits granted shall be specifically limited only (a) to  
31 children existing or conceived at the time the caretaker relative  
32 initially applies and qualifies for such assistance, unless this  
33 limitation is specifically waived by the department, or (b) to a  
34 child born following a twelve-consecutive-month period of  
35 discontinued benefits by the caretaker relative.

36 (2) TANF benefits in Mississippi shall be provided to the  
37 recipient family by an online electronic benefits transfer system.

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

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



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

48 (c) Families not assigning to the state any rights a  
49 family member may have, on behalf of the family member or of any  
50 other person for whom the family member has applied for or is  
51 receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, as  
52 required by law;

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

55 (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)  
56 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor  
57 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and  
58 has not successfully completed a high school education or its  
59 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational  
60 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma  
61 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training  
62 program approved by the department;

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



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

71 (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker  
72 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of  
73 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day  
74 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day  
75 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the  
76 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day  
77 period;

78 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the  
79 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the  
80 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the  
81 individual become and remain employed, or to participate  
82 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under  
83 subsection (6) (c) and (d), or who does not engage in applicant job  
84 search activities within the thirty-day period for TANF  
85 application approval after receiving the advice and consultation  
86 of eligibility workers and/or caseworkers of the department  
87 providing a detailed description of available job search venues in  
88 the individual's county of residence or the surrounding counties;

89 (j) A parent or caretaker relative who has not engaged  
90 in an allowable work activity once the department determines the  
91 parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in work, or once  
92 the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance



93 under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not  
94 consecutive, whichever is earlier;

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

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

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

109 (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal  
110 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance; and

111 (o) Individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or  
112 older who are not in compliance with the drug testing and  
113 substance use disorder treatment requirements of Section 43-17-6.

114 (4) (a) Any person who is otherwise eligible for TANF  
115 benefits, including custodial and noncustodial parents, shall be  
116 required to attend school and meet the monthly attendance



117 requirement as provided in this subsection if all of the following  
118 apply:

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

120 (ii) The person has not graduated from a public or  
121 private high school or obtained a High School Equivalency Diploma  
122 equivalent;

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

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

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

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

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

139 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education  
140 program; or



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

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

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



166 with the parent or caretaker relative a child's claim that he or  
167 she has a good cause for not attending school.

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

177 If a school district fails to provide to the department the  
178 information about the school attendance of any child within  
179 fifteen (15) working days after a written request, the department  
180 shall notify the Department of Audit within three (3) working days  
181 of the school district's failure to comply with that requirement.  
182 The Department of Audit shall begin audit proceedings within five  
183 (5) working days of notification by the Department of Human  
184 Services to determine the school district's compliance with the  
185 requirements of this subsection (4). If the Department of Audit  
186 finds that the school district is not in compliance with the  
187 requirements of this subsection, the school district shall be  
188 penalized as follows: The Department of Audit shall notify the  
189 State Department of Education of the school district's  
190 noncompliance, and the Department of Education shall reduce the





191 calculation of the school district's average daily attendance  
192 (ADA) that is used to determine the allocation of Mississippi  
193 Adequate Education Program funds by the number of children for  
194 which the district has failed to provide to the Department of  
195 Human Services the required information about the school  
196 attendance of those children. The reduction in the calculation of  
197 the school district's ADA under this paragraph shall be effective  
198 for a period of one (1) year.

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

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

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

208 (iii) The child is prohibited by the school  
209 district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This  
210 exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;  
211 however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making  
212 satisfactory progress towards obtaining a High School Equivalency  
213 Diploma equivalent shall be eligible for TANF benefits; or

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



- 216                           1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child  
217 or the minor parent's child;  
218                           2. Court-required appearances or temporary  
219 incarceration;  
220                           3. Medical or dental appointments for the  
221 child or minor parent's child;  
222                           4. Death of a close relative;  
223                           5. Observance of a religious holiday;  
224                           6. Family emergency;  
225                           7. Breakdown in transportation;  
226                           8. Suspension; or  
227                           9. Any other circumstance beyond the control  
228 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

229                   (f) Upon determination that a child has failed without  
230 good cause to attend school as required, the department shall  
231 provide written notice to the parent or caretaker relative  
232 (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF benefits) that  
233 specifies:

234                           (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next  
235 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend  
236 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this  
237 subsection;

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



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

243 The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the  
244 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing  
245 on the department's determination that the child has not been  
246 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative  
247 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,  
248 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that  
249 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly  
250 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny  
251 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in  
252 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue  
253 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child  
254 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has  
255 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child  
256 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups  
257 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A  
258 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one  
259 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly  
260 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction  
261 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative  
262 provides written proof from the school district that the child has  
263 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)  
264 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at



265 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the  
266 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes  
267 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the  
268 next possible payment month.

269 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their  
270 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations  
271 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer under  
272 Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination and booster  
273 vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health Officer for  
274 children of that age, in order for the parents or caretaker  
275 relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive TANF  
276 benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and booster  
277 vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates of  
278 vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to  
279 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the  
280 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not  
281 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster  
282 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to  
283 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall  
284 sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%)  
285 for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until  
286 the requirements of this subsection are met.

287 (6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for  
288 TANF assistance is work eligible, as determined by the Department  
289 of Human Services, the person shall be required to engage in an



290 allowable work activity once the department determines the parent  
291 or caretaker relative is determined work eligible, or once the  
292 parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance under  
293 the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not  
294 consecutive, whichever is earlier. No TANF benefits shall be  
295 given to any person to whom this section applies who fails without  
296 good cause to comply with the Employability Development Plan  
297 prepared by the department for the person, or who has refused to  
298 accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education in  
299 which he or she is able to engage, subject to the penalties  
300 prescribed in paragraph (e) of this subsection. A person shall be  
301 deemed to have refused to accept a referral or offer of  
302 employment, training or education if he or she:

303 (i) Willfully fails to report for an interview  
304 with respect to employment when requested to do so by the  
305 department; or

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

308 (iii) Willfully fails to report for allowable work  
309 activities as prescribed in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this  
310 subsection.

311 (b) The Department of Human Services shall operate a  
312 statewide work program for TANF recipients to provide work  
313 activities and supportive services to enable families to become  
314 self-sufficient and improve their competitive position in the



315 workforce in accordance with the requirements of the federal  
316 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
317 1996 (Public Law 104-193), as amended, and the regulations  
318 promulgated thereunder, and the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005  
319 (Public Law 109-171), as amended. Within sixty (60) days after  
320 the initial application for TANF benefits, the TANF recipient must  
321 participate in a job search skills training workshop or a job  
322 readiness program, which shall include resume writing, job search  
323 skills, employability skills and, if available at no charge, the  
324 General Aptitude Test Battery or its equivalent. All adults who  
325 are not specifically exempt shall be referred by the department  
326 for allowable work activities. An adult may be exempt from the  
327 mandatory work activity requirement for the following reasons:

328 (i) Incapacity;

329 (ii) Temporary illness or injury, verified by  
330 physician's certificate;

331 (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy, and  
332 there are complications verified by the certificate of a  
333 physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or any other  
334 licensed health care professional practicing under a protocol with  
335 a licensed physician;

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



339 (v) Caretaker of an ill or incapacitated person,  
340 as verified by physician's certificate;

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

343 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if  
344 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment  
345 plan;

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

349 (ix) History of having been a victim of domestic  
350 violence, which has been reported as required by state law and is  
351 substantiated by police reports or court records, and being at  
352 risk of further domestic violence, shall be exempt for a period as  
353 deemed necessary by the department but not to exceed a total of  
354 twelve (12) months, which need not be consecutive, in the  
355 sixty-month maximum benefit period. For the purposes of this  
356 subparagraph (ix), "domestic violence" means that an individual  
357 has been subjected to:

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

360 2. Sexual abuse;

361 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent  
362 child;



363 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of  
364 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or  
365 activities;

366 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or  
367 sexual abuse;

368 6. Mental abuse; or

369 7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

370 (c) For all families, all adults who are not  
371 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work  
372 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per  
373 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty  
374 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for  
375 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following  
376 allowable work activities:

377 (i) Unsubsidized employment;

378 (ii) Subsidized private employment;

379 (iii) Subsidized public employment;

380 (iv) Work experience (including work associated  
381 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient  
382 private employment is not available;

383 (v) On-the-job training;

384 (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance  
385 consistent with federal TANF regulations;

386 (vii) Community service programs;





387 (viii) Vocational educational training (not to  
388 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);

389 (ix) The provision of child care services to an  
390 individual who is participating in a community service program;

391 (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a  
392 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,  
393 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not  
394 completed high school or received such certificate;

395 (xi) Education directly related to employment, for  
396 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed  
397 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

398 (d) The following are allowable work activities which  
399 may be attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified in  
400 paragraph (c) of this subsection:

401 (i) Job skills training directly related to  
402 employment;

403 (ii) Education directly related to employment for  
404 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high  
405 school equivalency certificate;

406 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in  
407 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for  
408 individuals who have not completed high school or received such  
409 equivalency certificate;

410 (iv) Job search and job readiness assistance  
411 consistent with federal TANF regulations.



412 (e) If any adult or caretaker relative refuses to  
413 participate in allowable work activity as required under this  
414 subsection (6), the following full family TANF benefit penalty  
415 will apply, subject to due process to include notification,  
416 conciliation and a hearing if requested by the recipient:

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

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

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

429 (iv) For the fourth violation, the person shall be  
430 permanently disqualified.

431 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or  
432 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the  
433 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity  
434 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this  
435 paragraph (e), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not be  
436 terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting that



437 person's applicable work requirement or who is not required to  
438 work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for Medicaid  
439 benefits regardless of the disqualification of their parent or  
440 caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this subsection (6),  
441 unless prohibited by state or federal law.

442 (f) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year  
443 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive  
444 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements  
445 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall  
446 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the  
447 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements  
448 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

449 (g) No adult in a work activity required under this  
450 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other  
451 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially  
452 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF  
453 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has  
454 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise  
455 caused an involuntary reduction of its workforce in order to fill  
456 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.  
457 The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, established  
458 under Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial  
459 hearing officers to hear and decide claims by employees of  
460 violations of this paragraph (g). The hearing officer shall hear  
461 all the evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such



462 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a  
463 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be  
464 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the  
465 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the  
466 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may  
467 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the  
468 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against  
469 the department for the review of such decision, in which action  
470 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall  
471 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which  
472 shall be certified to the court by the department in the manner  
473 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court  
474 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its  
475 decision as provided in that section.

476 (7) The Department of Human Services may provide child care  
477 for eligible participants who require such care so that they may  
478 accept employment or remain employed. The department may also  
479 provide child care for those participating in the TANF program  
480 when it is determined that they are satisfactorily involved in  
481 education, training or other allowable work activities. The  
482 department may contract with Head Start agencies to provide child  
483 care services to TANF recipients. The department may also arrange  
484 for child care by use of contract or vouchers, provide vouchers in  
485 advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a child care provider,  
486 or use any other arrangement deemed appropriate by the department,



487 and may establish different reimbursement rates for child care  
488 services depending on the category of the facility or home. Any  
489 center-based or group home child care facility under this  
490 subsection shall be licensed by the State Department of Health  
491 pursuant to law. When child care is being provided in the child's  
492 own home, in the home of a relative of the child, or in any other  
493 unlicensed setting, the provision of such child care may be  
494 monitored on a random basis by the Department of Human Services or  
495 the State Department of Health. Transitional child care  
496 assistance may be continued if it is necessary for parents to  
497 maintain employment once support has ended, unless prohibited  
498 under state or federal law. Transitional child care assistance  
499 may be provided for up to twenty-four (24) months after the last  
500 month during which the family was eligible for TANF assistance, if  
501 federal funds are available for such child care assistance.

502 (8) The Department of Human Services may provide  
503 transportation or provide reasonable reimbursement for  
504 transportation expenses that are necessary for individuals to be  
505 able to participate in allowable work activity under the TANF  
506 program.

507 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of  
508 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive  
509 calendar months following the month in which the participating  
510 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased  
511 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours



512 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid  
513 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only  
514 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for  
515 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are  
516 available to provide such assistance.

517 (10) The department shall require applicants for and  
518 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a  
519 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant  
520 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the  
521 state.

522 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the  
523 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow  
524 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state  
525 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating  
526 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits  
527 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF  
528 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the  
529 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if  
530 federal funds are available therefor. Not later than September 1,  
531 2021, the department shall prepare a report, which shall be  
532 provided to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Public Health  
533 Committees and to any other member of the Legislature upon  
534 request, on the history, status, outcomes and effectiveness of the  
535 agreements required under this subsection.



536 (12) Any unspent TANF funds remaining from the prior fiscal  
537 year may be expended for any TANF allowable activities.

538 (13) The Mississippi Department of Human Services shall  
539 provide TANF applicants information and referral to programs that  
540 provide information about birth control, prenatal health care,  
541 abstinence education, marriage education, family preservation and  
542 fatherhood. Not later than September 1, 2021, the department  
543 shall prepare a report, which shall be provided to the Chairmen of  
544 the House and Senate Public Health Committees and to any other  
545 member of the Legislature upon request, on the history, status,  
546 outcomes and effectiveness of the information and referral  
547 requirements under this subsection.

548 (14) No new TANF program requirement or restriction  
549 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable  
550 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation  
551 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after July  
552 1, 2004, unless such is specifically authorized by an amendment to  
553 this section by the Legislature.

554 (15) Effective July 1, 2023, the Department of Human  
555 Services shall implement the use of photo-protected EBT cards in  
556 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which shall include  
557 the personal identification number (PIN) and an imprinted  
558 photograph of the SNAP case head of household. The department  
559 shall issue no more than two (2) additional EBT cards per year for



560 family members of the head of household and no more than two (2)  
561 replacements per year.

562           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
563 and after July 1, 2023.

