

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Simmons (12th)

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2591

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A  
3 SUPPLEMENTARY STATE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY RECIPIENTS; TO  
4 PROVIDE THAT RECIPIENTS MUST BE AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD; TO PROVIDE  
5 THAT RECIPIENTS MAY RECEIVE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MONTH; AND FOR  
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 43-1-7. (1) The Department of Human Services may establish  
11 family resource centers to help families who are receiving or are  
12 eligible to receive assistance from government agencies to  
13 facilitate their access to services and resources that will lead  
14 to increased family independence.

15 (2) The department shall carry out an intense public  
16 information campaign to inform low-income workers, and especially  
17 public assistance recipients, of the availability of and  
18 application rules for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC),  
19 in order to maximize the refund of federal income tax withheld  
20 from those persons. The information campaign shall include



21 publishing and circulating bulletins or notices to recipients of  
22 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and other  
23 public assistance that publicize and explain the EITC and the  
24 criteria for family eligibility for the EITC. The department also  
25 shall carry out an intense information campaign to inform  
26 employers of the availability of and the criteria for eligibility  
27 for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which offers employers  
28 a credit against their federal tax liability for hiring people  
29 from certain target groups, including TANF recipients, and to  
30 inform employers of the availability of and the criteria for  
31 eligibility for the state income tax credit for employers who hire  
32 persons receiving TANF benefits as authorized under Section  
33 27-7-22.1.

34 (3) The department shall establish and maintain a statewide  
35 incoming wide area telephone service hot line for the purpose of  
36 reporting suspected cases of welfare eligibility fraud, food stamp  
37 fraud and Medicaid fraud. The department is authorized, subject  
38 to the extent of appropriations available, to offer financial  
39 incentives to individuals for reporting such suspected cases of  
40 public assistance fraud.

41 (4) Any applicant for or recipient of TANF benefits or Food  
42 Stamps shall be required to agree that, as a condition of  
43 eligibility for those benefits, the person will cooperate with the  
44 department in determining paternity for the purposes of enforcing  
45 child support obligations. The department shall utilize methods



46 and procedures provided for by state or federal law in determining  
47 paternity and enforcing child support obligations.

48 (5) The department shall establish and fund a supplementary  
49 state food stamp program for elderly recipients. Applicants must  
50 be at least sixty-five (65) years of age. Approved applicants for  
51 such food stamp program may receive One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)  
52 per month. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations  
53 to administer such program.

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

