

By: Representatives Carpenter, Pigott

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1217

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 43-17-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL SET
3 ASIDE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THE MONIES RECEIVED BY THE STATE UNDER
4 THE FEDERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BLOCK GRANT
5 DURING EACH FISCAL YEAR TO FUND GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
6 SPECIFICALLY WORKING WITH MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER FAMILIES, OR
7 BOTH, TO PROVIDE MARRIAGE COUNSELING, PREPARATION AND SUPPORT; TO
8 AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE
9 PRECEDING PROVISION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section 43-17-
12 41, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 43-17-41. (1) For purposes of this section, the following
14 terms shall be defined as provided in this subsection:

15 (a) "Military" means the Armed Forces or Reserves of
16 the United States, including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast
17 Guard, Air Force, and the reserve components thereof, the National
18 Guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the
19 naval militia of any state.

20 (b) "First responder" means a:

21 (i) Firefighter;



(ii) Emergency medical technician;
(iii) Rescue squad member;
(iv) Law enforcement officer;
(v) Correctional officer; or
(vi) Sworn member of the State Fire Marshal's
office.

(c) "Nonprofit organization" means an entity described
in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Of the monies received by the state under the federal
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant during each
fiscal year, the state department shall, consistent with federal
law and subject to appropriation by the Legislature, set aside a
minimum of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of such monies to
fund grants to nonprofit organizations specifically working with
military or first responder families, or both, to provide marriage
counseling, preparation and support. The state department is
authorized to implement policies to award such grants, and is
authorized to implement those policies by rule promulgated
pursuant to Section 43-17-7 and Section 25-43-1.101 et seq.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature that funding
authorized under this section shall be used to supplement, not
supplant, other sources of revenue previously or hereafter used
for the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 43-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:



47 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy
48 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent
49 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the
50 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary
51 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each
52 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the
53 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the
54 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when
55 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the
56 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and
57 support available to the child to provide such child with a
58 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The
59 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an
60 amount not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month; the
61 second family member in the dependent child's budget may receive
62 an amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per month; and
63 each additional family member in the dependent child's budget an
64 amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per month. The
65 maximum for any individual family member in the dependent child's
66 budget may be exceeded for foster or medical care or in cases of
67 children with an intellectual disability or a physical disability.
68 TANF benefits granted shall be specifically limited only (a) to
69 children existing or conceived at the time the caretaker relative
70 initially applies and qualifies for such assistance, unless this
71 limitation is specifically waived by the department, or (b) to a



child born following a twelve-consecutive-month period of discontinued benefits by the caretaker relative.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18) years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and has not successfully completed a high school education or its



97 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational
98 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma
99 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training
100 program approved by the department;

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

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

109 (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker
110 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of
111 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day
112 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day
113 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the
114 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day
115 period;

116 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the
117 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the
118 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the
119 individual become and remain employed, or to participate
120 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under
121 subsection (6) (c) and (d), or who does not engage in applicant job



search activities within the thirty-day period for TANF application approval after receiving the advice and consultation of eligibility workers and/or caseworkers of the department providing a detailed description of available job search venues in the individual's county of residence or the surrounding counties;

(j) A parent or caretaker relative who has not engaged in an allowable work activity once the department determines the parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not consecutive, whichever is earlier;

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

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

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



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

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

(4) (a) Any person who is otherwise eligible for TANF benefits, including custodial and noncustodial parents, shall be required to attend school and meet the monthly attendance requirement as provided in this subsection if all of the following apply:

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

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

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

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

The monthly attendance requirement under this subsection shall be attendance at the school in which the person is enrolled for each day during a month that the school conducts classes in which the person is enrolled, with not more than two (2) absences during the month for reasons other than the reasons listed in paragraph (e)(iv) of this subsection. Persons who fail to meet



172 participation requirements in this subsection shall be subject to
173 sanctions as provided in paragraph (f) of this subsection.

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

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

177 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education
178 program; or

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

182 (c) If any compulsory-school-age child, as defined in
183 Section 37-13-91(2), to which TANF eligibility requirements apply
184 is not in compliance with the compulsory school attendance
185 requirements of Section 37-13-91(6), the superintendent of schools
186 of the school district in which the child is enrolled or eligible
187 to attend shall notify the county department of human services of
188 the child's noncompliance. The Department of Human Services shall
189 review school attendance information as provided under this
190 paragraph at all initial eligibility determinations and upon
191 subsequent report of unsatisfactory attendance.

192 (d) The signature of a person on an application for
193 TANF benefits constitutes permission for the release of school
194 attendance records for that person or for any child residing with
195 that person. The department shall request information from the
196 child's school district about the child's attendance in the school



197 district's most recently completed semester of attendance. If
198 information about the child's previous school attendance is not
199 available or cannot be verified, the department shall require the
200 child to meet the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
201 semester or until the information is obtained. The department
202 shall use the attendance information provided by a school district
203 to verify attendance for a child. The department shall review
204 with the parent or caretaker relative a child's claim that he or
205 she has a good cause for not attending school.

206 A school district shall provide information to the department
207 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school
208 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a
209 written request for that information from the department. The
210 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as
211 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to
212 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may
213 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's
214 absence.

215 If a school district fails to provide to the department the
216 information about the school attendance of any child within
217 fifteen (15) working days after a written request, the department
218 shall notify the Department of Audit within three (3) working days
219 of the school district's failure to comply with that requirement.
220 The Department of Audit shall begin audit proceedings within five
221 (5) working days of notification by the Department of Human



Services to determine the school district's compliance with the requirements of this subsection (4). If the Department of Audit finds that the school district is not in compliance with the requirements of this subsection, the school district shall be penalized as follows: The Department of Audit shall notify the State Department of Education of the school district's noncompliance, and the Department of Education shall reduce the calculation of the school district's net enrollment that is used to determine the allocation of total funding formula funds by the number of children for which the district has failed to provide to the Department of Human Services the required information about the school attendance of those children. The reduction in the calculation of the school district's net enrollment under this paragraph shall be effective for a period of one (1) year.

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

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

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

(iii) The child is prohibited by the school district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This



exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;
however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making
satisfactory progress towards obtaining a High School Equivalency
Diploma equivalent shall be eligible for TANF benefits; or

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

1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child
or the minor parent's child;

2. Court-required appearances or temporary
incarceration;

3. Medical or dental appointments for the
child or minor parent's child;

4. Death of a close relative;

5. Observance of a religious holiday;

6. Family emergency;

7. Breakdown in transportation;

8. Suspension; or

9. Any other circumstance beyond the control
of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

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



271 (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next
272 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend
273 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this
274 subsection;

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

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

280 The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the
281 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing
282 on the department's determination that the child has not been
283 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative
284 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,
285 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that
286 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly
287 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny
288 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in
289 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue
290 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child
291 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has
292 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child
293 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups
294 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A
295 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one



296 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly
297 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction
298 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative
299 provides written proof from the school district that the child has
300 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
301 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at
302 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the
303 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes
304 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the
305 next possible payment month.

306 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their
307 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations
308 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer under
309 Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination and booster
310 vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health Officer for
311 children of that age, in order for the parents or caretaker
312 relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive TANF
313 benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and booster
314 vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates of
315 vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to
316 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the
317 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not
318 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster
319 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to
320 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall



sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%) for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until the requirements of this subsection are met.

(6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for TANF assistance is work eligible, as determined by the Department of Human Services, the person shall be required to engage in an allowable work activity once the department determines the parent or caretaker relative is determined work eligible, or once the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not consecutive, whichever is earlier. No TANF benefits shall be given to any person to whom this section applies who fails without good cause to comply with the Employability Development Plan prepared by the department for the person, or who has refused to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education in which he or she is able to engage, subject to the penalties prescribed in paragraph (e) of this subsection. A person shall be deemed to have refused to accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education if he or she:

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

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



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

(b) The Department of Human Services shall operate a statewide work program for TANF recipients to provide work activities and supportive services to enable families to become self-sufficient and improve their competitive position in the workforce in accordance with the requirements of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-193), as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), as amended. Within sixty (60) days after the initial application for TANF benefits, the TANF recipient must participate in a job search skills training workshop or a job readiness program, which shall include resume writing, job search skills, employability skills and, if available at no charge, the General Aptitude Test Battery or its equivalent. All adults who are not specifically exempt shall be referred by the department for allowable work activities. An adult may be exempt from the mandatory work activity requirement for the following reasons:

(i) Incapacity;

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

(iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy, and there are complications verified by the certificate of a



370 physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or any other
371 licensed health care professional practicing under a protocol with
372 a licensed physician;

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

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

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

380 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if
381 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment
382 plan;

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

386 (ix) History of having been a victim of domestic
387 violence, which has been reported as required by state law and is
388 substantiated by police reports or court records, and being at
389 risk of further domestic violence, shall be exempt for a period as
390 deemed necessary by the department but not to exceed a total of
391 twelve (12) months, which need not be consecutive, in the
392 sixty-month maximum benefit period. For the purposes of this
393 subparagraph (ix), "domestic violence" means that an individual
394 has been subjected to:



395 1. Physical acts that resulted in, or
396 threatened to result in, physical injury to the individual;
397 2. Sexual abuse;
398 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent
399 child;
400 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of
401 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or
402 activities;
403 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or
404 sexual abuse;
405 6. Mental abuse; or
406 7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.
407 (c) For all families, all adults who are not
408 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work
409 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per
410 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty
411 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for
412 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following
413 allowable work activities:
414 (i) Unsubsidized employment;
415 (ii) Subsidized private employment;
416 (iii) Subsidized public employment;
417 (iv) Work experience (including work associated
418 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient
419 private employment is not available;



420 (v) On-the-job training;

421 (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance

422 consistent with federal TANF regulations;

423 (vii) Community service programs;

424 (viii) Vocational educational training (not to

425 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);

426 (ix) The provision of child care services to an

427 individual who is participating in a community service program;

428 (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a

429 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,

430 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not

431 completed high school or received such certificate;

432 (xi) Education directly related to employment, for

433 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed

434 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

435 (d) The following are allowable work activities which

436 may be attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified in

437 paragraph (c) of this subsection:

438 (i) Job skills training directly related to

439 employment;

440 (ii) Education directly related to employment for

441 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high

442 school equivalency certificate;

443 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in

444 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for



individuals who have not completed high school or received such
equivalency certificate;

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

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

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

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

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

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

For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or
federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the



470 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity
471 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this
472 paragraph (e), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not be
473 terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting that
474 person's applicable work requirement or who is not required to
475 work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for Medicaid
476 benefits regardless of the disqualification of their parent or
477 caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this subsection (6),
478 unless prohibited by state or federal law.

479 (f) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year
480 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive
481 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements
482 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall
483 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the
484 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements
485 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

486 (g) No adult in a work activity required under this
487 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other
488 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially
489 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF
490 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has
491 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise
492 caused an involuntary reduction of its workforce in order to fill
493 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.

494 The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, established



under Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial hearing officers to hear and decide claims by employees of violations of this paragraph (g). The hearing officer shall hear all the evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such additional evidence as he may require and shall make a determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against the department for the review of such decision, in which action any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which shall be certified to the court by the department in the manner provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its decision as provided in that section.

(7) The Department of Human Services may provide child care for eligible participants who require such care so that they may accept employment or remain employed. The department may also provide child care for those participating in the TANF program when it is determined that they are satisfactorily involved in education, training or other allowable work activities. The department may contract with Head Start agencies to provide child



care services to TANF recipients. The department may also arrange for child care by use of contract or vouchers, provide vouchers in advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a child care provider, or use any other arrangement deemed appropriate by the department, and may establish different reimbursement rates for child care services depending on the category of the facility or home. Any center-based or group home child care facility under this subsection shall be licensed by the State Department of Health pursuant to law. When child care is being provided in the child's own home, in the home of a relative of the child, or in any other unlicensed setting, the provision of such child care may be monitored on a random basis by the Department of Human Services or the State Department of Health. Transitional child care assistance may be continued if it is necessary for parents to maintain employment once support has ended, unless prohibited under state or federal law. Transitional child care assistance may be provided for up to twenty-four (24) months after the last month during which the family was eligible for TANF assistance, if federal funds are available for such child care assistance.

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



544 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of
545 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive
546 calendar months following the month in which the participating
547 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased
548 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours
549 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid
550 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only
551 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for
552 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are
553 available to provide such assistance.

554 (10) The department shall require applicants for and
555 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a
556 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant
557 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the
558 state.

559 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the
560 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow
561 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state
562 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating
563 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits
564 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF
565 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the
566 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if
567 federal funds are available therefor. Not later than September 1,
568 2021, the department shall prepare a report, which shall be



provided to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Public Health Committees and to any other member of the Legislature upon request, on the history, status, outcomes and effectiveness of the agreements required under this subsection.

(12) Any unspent TANF funds remaining from the prior fiscal year may be expended for any TANF allowable activities. TANF funds shall be set aside for making grants as provided in Section 1 of this act.

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

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



593 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
594 and after July 1, 2025.

