

By: Representative Bell (65th)

To: Public Health and Human Services

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1363

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-12-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REQUIRE ALL  
3 ENROLLEES IN THE TANF PROGRAM TO BE COMPLIANT WITH WORK  
4 REQUIREMENTS OR ANY EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
5 REGARDLESS OF AGE BEFORE GRANTING BENEFITS; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

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

8       **SECTION 1.** Section 43-12-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10       **43-12-35. Noncompliance with Temporary Assistance for Needy  
11 Families program rules.** (1) The Department of Human Services  
12 shall only grant benefits when an approved applicant has signed a  
13 written agreement clearly enumerating continued eligibility  
14 requirements, circumstances in which sanctions may be imposed, and  
15 any potential penalties for noncompliance.

16       (2) The department shall require all enrollees to be  
17 compliant with all program requirements, including work  
18 requirements or any educational or vocational advancement  
19 regardless of age, before granting benefits.

20 (3) The department shall institute a three-month,  
21 full-household sanction for the first instance of noncompliance  
22 with any TANF requirement, unless expressly prohibited by federal  
23 law.

24 (4) The department shall terminate benefits for the second  
25 instance of noncompliance with any TANF requirement, unless  
26 expressly prohibited by federal law.

27 (5) An individual sanctioned under subsection (3) of this  
28 section shall not have benefits reinstated without reviewing the  
29 agreement required under subsection (1) of this section.

30                   (6) The department shall deny benefits to any adult member  
31 of a household where another adult member of the household has  
32 been found to have committed benefits fraud.

33           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
34 and after July 1, 2025.

