

By: Clark, Stevens

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 362

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY
2 AND THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF ANY MUNICIPALITY TO ESTABLISH A
3 PROGRAM TO HELP CERTAIN LOW-INCOME PERSONS PURCHASE OR OTHERWISE
4 ACQUIRE AUTOMOBILES THAT WILL BE USED FOR EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING OR
5 EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND
6 THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES TO EXPEND ANY AVAILABLE FUNDS
7 OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO FUND ANY SUCH PROGRAM; TO
8 AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNING
9 AUTHORITIES TO CONTRACT WITH ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO
10 ADMINISTER ANY SUCH PROGRAM; TO SPECIFY THE ELIGIBILITY
11 REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH PROGRAM; TO
12 SPECIFY SOME OF THE PROVISIONS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN ANY SUCH
13 PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
14 PROVIDE THAT FAMILIES RECEIVING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
15 FAMILIES (TANF) BENEFITS MAY OWN ONE AUTOMOBILE OF ANY VALUE FOR
16 EACH WORKER IN THE FAMILY HOUSEHOLD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 SECTION 1. (1) The board of supervisors of any county and
19 the governing authorities of any municipality may establish a
20 program to help certain low-income persons purchase or otherwise
21 acquire automobiles that will be used for employment, training or
22 educational purposes. The board of supervisors may expend any
23 available funds of the county, and the municipal governing
24 authorities may expend any available funds of the municipality, to
25 fund any program established under this section. The board of
26 supervisors and the municipal governing authorities may contract
27 with any public or private entity to administer any program
28 established under this section.

29 (2) In order to be eligible to participate in any program
30 established under this section, a person must meet the following
31 requirements:

32 (a) The person's income shall not exceed one hundred
33 twenty-five percent (125%) of the income eligibility requirements
34 for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and
35 the person's resources shall not exceed the eligibility
36 requirements for TANF benefits;

37 (b) The person does not have to be currently receiving
38 or have previously received any TANF benefits;

39 (c) The person must be employed, have some savings or
40 otherwise be in a position to contribute to the cost of purchasing
41 and maintaining an automobile, as determined by the program
42 administrator; and

43 (d) The person must pay a certain amount or percentage
44 of the cost of any automobile that is purchased under the program,
45 the amount or percentage to be determined by the program
46 administrator.

47 (3) It is the intent of this section to allow the boards of
48 supervisors of the counties and the governing authorities of the
49 municipalities wide discretion in designing and implementing a
50 program to help certain low-income persons purchase or otherwise
51 acquire automobiles. Without limiting any power of the boards of
52 supervisors or municipal governing authorities to design or
53 implement such a program, any program established under this
54 section may include provisions for any or all of the following:

55 (a) Provide grants or loans to persons to use for
56 purchasing automobiles, the amount of any grant or loan to be
57 determined by the program administrator;

58 (b) Establish partnerships or other cooperative
59 relationships with public entities or private sector entities to

60 coordinate methods of helping persons purchase or acquire
61 automobiles;

62 (c) Pay all or part of the cost of insurance on any
63 automobiles purchased or acquired under the program for a limited
64 period of time; or

65 (d) Require persons who purchase or acquire automobiles
66 under the program to receive training in budgeting and automobile
67 maintenance.

68 SECTION 2. Section 43-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
69 amended as follows:[RF1]

70 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy
71 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent
72 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the
73 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary
74 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each
75 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the
76 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the
77 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when
78 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the
79 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and
80 support available to the child to provide such child with a
81 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The
82 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an
83 amount not to exceed One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00) per month;
84 the second family member in the dependent child's budget may
85 receive an amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per
86 month; and each additional family member in the dependent child's
87 budget an amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per

88 month. The maximum for any individual family member in the
89 dependent child's budget may be exceeded for foster or medical
90 care or in cases of mentally retarded or physically handicapped
91 children. TANF benefits granted shall be specifically limited
92 only (a) to children existing or conceived at the time the
93 caretaker relative initially applies and qualifies for such
94 assistance, unless this limitation is specifically waived by the
95 department, or (b) to a child born following a twelve (12)
96 consecutive month period of discontinued benefits by the caretaker
97 relative.

98 (2) TANF cash benefits in Mississippi shall be provided by
99 monthly checks mailed to the recipient family until such time as
100 an on-line electronic benefits transfer system for TANF benefit
101 payments is implemented pursuant to Section 43-1-28.

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

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

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

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

116 required by law;

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

119 (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)
120 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor
121 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and
122 has not successfully completed a high school education or its
123 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational
124 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma
125 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training
126 program approved by the department;

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

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

135 (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker
136 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of
137 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day
138 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day
139 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the
140 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day
141 period;

142 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the
143 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the

144 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the
145 individual become and remain employed, or to participate
146 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under
147 subsections (6) (c) and (d);

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

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

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

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

169 (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal
170 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance.

171 (4) (a) Any person who is otherwise eligible for TANF

172 benefits, including custodial and noncustodial parents, shall be
173 required to attend school and meet the monthly attendance
174 requirement as provided in this subsection if all of the following
175 apply:

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

177 (ii) The person has not graduated from a public or
178 private high school or obtained a GED equivalent;

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

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

184 The monthly attendance requirement under this subsection
185 shall be attendance at the school in which the person is enrolled
186 for each day during a month that the school conducts classes in
187 which the person is enrolled, with not more than two (2) absences
188 during the month for reasons other than the reasons listed in
189 paragraph (e) (iv) of this subsection. Persons who fail to meet
190 participation requirements in this subsection shall be subject to
191 sanctions as provided in paragraph (f) of this subsection.

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

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

195 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education
196 program; or

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

200 (c) If any compulsory-school-age child, as defined in
201 Section 37-13-91(2), to which TANF eligibility requirements apply
202 is not in compliance with the compulsory school attendance
203 requirements of Section 37-13-91(6), the superintendent of schools
204 of the school district in which the child is enrolled or eligible
205 to attend shall notify the county department of human services of
206 the child's noncompliance. The Department of Human Services shall
207 review school attendance information as provided under this
208 paragraph at all initial eligibility determinations and upon
209 subsequent report of unsatisfactory attendance.

210 (d) The signature of a person on an application for
211 TANF benefits constitutes permission for the release of school
212 attendance records for that person or for any child residing with
213 that person. The department shall request information from the
214 child's school district about the child's attendance in the school
215 district's most recently completed semester of attendance. If
216 information about the child's previous school attendance is not
217 available or cannot be verified, the department shall require the
218 child to meet the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
219 semester or until the information is obtained. The department
220 shall use the attendance information provided by a school district
221 to verify attendance for a child. The department shall review
222 with the parent or caretaker relative a child's claim that he or
223 she has a good cause for not attending school.

224 A school district shall provide information to the department
225 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school
226 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a
227 written request for such information from the department. The

228 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as
229 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to
230 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may
231 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's
232 absence.

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

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

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

242 (iii) The child is prohibited by the school
243 district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This
244 exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;
245 however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making
246 satisfactory progress towards obtaining a GED equivalent shall be
247 eligible for TANF benefits; or

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

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

252 2. Court-required appearances or temporary
253 incarceration;

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

- 256 4. Death of a close relative;
257 5. Observance of a religious holiday;
258 6. Family emergency;
259 7. Breakdown in transportation;
260 8. Suspension; or
261 9. Any other circumstance beyond the control
262 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

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

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

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

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

277 The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the
278 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing
279 on the department's determination that the child has not been
280 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative
281 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,
282 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that
283 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly

284 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny
285 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in
286 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue
287 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child
288 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has
289 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child
290 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups
291 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A
292 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one
293 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly
294 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction
295 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative
296 provides written proof from the school district that the child has
297 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
298 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at
299 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the
300 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes
301 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the
302 next possible payment month.

303 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their
304 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations
305 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer
306 pursuant to Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination
307 and booster vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health
308 Officer for children of that age, in order for the parents or
309 caretaker relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive
310 TANF benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and
311 booster vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates

312 of vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to
313 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the
314 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not
315 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster
316 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to
317 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall
318 sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%)
319 for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until
320 the requirements of this subsection are met.

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

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

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

342 (iii) Willfully fails to report for allowable work
343 activities as prescribed in subsections (6) (c) and (d).

344 (b) The Department of Human Services shall operate a
345 statewide work program for TANF recipients to provide work
346 activities and supportive services to enable families to become
347 self-sufficient and improve their competitive position in the work
348 force in accordance with the requirements of the federal Personal
349 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
350 (Public Law 104-193), as amended, and the regulations promulgated
351 thereunder. All adults who are not specifically exempt shall be
352 referred by the department for allowable work activities. An
353 adult may be exempt from the mandatory work activity requirement
354 for the following reasons:

355 (i) Incapacity;

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

358 (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy,
359 verified by physician's certificate;

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

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

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

367 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if

368 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment
369 plan;

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

373 (ix) History of having been a victim of domestic
374 violence, which has been reported as required by state law and is
375 substantiated by police reports or court records, and being at
376 risk of further domestic violence, shall be exempt for a period as
377 deemed necessary by the department but not to exceed a total of
378 twelve (12) months, which need not be consecutive, in the
379 sixty-month maximum benefit period. For the purposes of this
380 paragraph (ix), "domestic violence" means that an individual has
381 been subjected to:

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

384 2. Sexual abuse;

385 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent
386 child;

387 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of
388 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or
389 activities;

390 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or
391 sexual abuse;

392 6. Mental abuse; or

393 7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

394 (c) For all families, all adults who are not
395 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work

396 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per
397 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty
398 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for
399 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following
400 allowable work activities:

- 401 (i) Unsubsidized employment;
- 402 (ii) Subsidized private employment;
- 403 (iii) Subsidized public employment;
- 404 (iv) Work experience (including work associated
405 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient
406 private employment is not available;
- 407 (v) On-the-job training;
- 408 (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance
409 consistent with federal TANF regulations;
- 410 (vii) Community service programs;
- 411 (viii) Vocational educational training (not to
412 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);
- 413 (ix) The provision of child care services to an
414 individual who is participating in a community service program;
- 415 (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a
416 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,
417 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not
418 completed high school or received such certificate;
- 419 (xi) Education directly related to employment, for
420 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed
421 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

422 (d) The following are allowable work activities which
423 may be attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified

424 in paragraph (6)(c):

425 (i) Job skills training directly related to
426 employment;

427 (ii) Education directly related to employment for
428 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high
429 school equivalency certificate;

430 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in
431 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for
432 individuals who have not completed high school or received such
433 equivalency certificate;

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

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

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

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

449 (iii) For the third violation, the department
450 shall terminate the TANF assistance otherwise payable to the
451 family for a twelve-month period or until the person has complied

452 with the required work activity, whichever is longer;

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

455 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or
456 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the
457 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity
458 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this
459 subsection (6) (e), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall
460 not be terminated for any other person in the family who is
461 meeting that person's applicable work requirement or who is not
462 required to work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible
463 for Medicaid benefits regardless of the disqualification of their
464 parent or caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this
465 subsection (6), unless prohibited by state or federal law.

466 (f) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year
467 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive
468 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements
469 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall
470 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the
471 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements
472 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

473 (g) No adult in a work activity required under this
474 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other
475 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially
476 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF
477 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has
478 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise
479 caused an involuntary reduction of its work force in order to fill

480 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.
481 The Mississippi Employment Security Commission, established under
482 Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial hearing
483 officers to hear and decide claims by employees of violations of
484 this paragraph (g). The hearing officer shall hear all the
485 evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such
486 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a
487 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be
488 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the
489 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the
490 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may
491 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the
492 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against
493 the commission for the review of such decision, in which action
494 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall
495 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which
496 shall be certified to the court by the commission in the manner
497 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court
498 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its
499 decision as provided in that section.

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

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

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

531 (b) Families receiving TANF benefits may own one (1)
532 automobile of any value for each worker in the family household.

533 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of
534 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive
535 calendar months following the month in which the participating

536 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased
537 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours
538 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid
539 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only
540 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for
541 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are
542 available to provide such assistance.

543 (10) The department shall require applicants for and
544 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a
545 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant
546 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the
547 state.

548 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the
549 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow
550 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state
551 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating
552 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits
553 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF
554 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the
555 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if
556 federal funds are available therefor.

557 (12) No new TANF program requirement or restriction
558 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable
559 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation
560 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after the
561 effective date of this act, unless such is specifically authorized
562 by an amendment to this section by the Legislature.

563 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from

564 and after October 1, 2000.