

*****Adopted*****

AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill NO. 968

By Senator(s) Committee

22 Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
23 in lieu thereof the following:

24

25 SECTION 1. Section 43-27-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
26 amended by Senate Bill No. 2143, 1999 Regular Session, which
27 became law after veto by approval of the Legislature during the
28 2000 Regular Session, is amended as follows:

29 43-27-107. The Department of Human Services is authorized to
30 set the qualifications necessary for all social workers employed
31 by the department, which shall at a minimum require state
32 licensure as a social worker, and shall not be required to go
33 through the State Personnel Board or use the qualifications set by
34 the Personnel Board in employing social workers for the
35 department. All social workers employed by the department shall
36 be state service employees from the date of their employment with
37 the department; however, to carry out its responsibilities, the
38 department may use any available federal funds to employ such
39 additional social workers as it can employ in time-limited * * *
40 positions. All social worker positions existing before July 1,
41 1998, will remain state service.

42 SECTION 2. Section 73-53-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
43 amended as follows:

44 73-53-7. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, all

45 individuals not exempt from licensure who are not licensed under
46 this chapter are prohibited from performing services for
47 compensation for which licensure is required by this chapter, and
48 are also prohibited from holding themselves out to the public by
49 any title or description of services set out in this chapter or by
50 any title or description of services likely to cause public
51 confusion with any title or description of services set out in
52 this chapter.

53 (2) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,
54 1993, who is actively engaged in the practice of social work
55 before July 1, 1994, as an employee of the State of Mississippi or
56 any agency, political subdivision or municipality thereof or any
57 community action agency or Head Start agency, and who is not
58 eligible to be issued a license under subsection (3) of this
59 section, shall be issued a provisional license as a licensed
60 social worker by the board, if the person applies for such
61 provisional license before July 1, 1994, and, at the time that the
62 application is made, the person is so actively engaged. The
63 license shall be issued by the board upon application therefor,
64 the submission of proof satisfactory to the board of the
65 applicant's employment in the practice of social work as provided
66 in this subsection, and the payment of the appropriate fee. Such
67 license shall be valid for a maximum period of two (2) years, but
68 not to extend past June 30, 1995, during which time the
69 provisional licensee must pass the AASSWB social work examination
70 at the basic level.

71 (3) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,
72 1993, who has been actively engaged in the practice of social work
73 for not less than five (5) years before July 1, 1993, as an
74 employee of the State of Mississippi or any agency, political
75 subdivision or municipality thereof or any community action agency
76 or Head Start agency, shall be issued a license as a social worker
77 by the board, if the person applies for such license before
78 September 1, 1994, and at the time that the application is made,
79 the person is so actively engaged. Any person who has eight (8)

80 years of social work practice as an employee of any of the
81 specified entities before July 1, 1993, who is an employee of any
82 of the specified entities on July 1, 2000, regardless of whether
83 the current employment position is designated as a social worker,
84 shall be issued a license as a social worker by the board if the
85 person applies for the license before September 1, 2000. The
86 license shall be issued by the board upon application therefor,
87 the submission of proof satisfactory to the board of the
88 applicant's employment in the practice of social work as provided
89 in this subsection, and the payment of the appropriate fee.

90 SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Human Services shall
91 collect and report upon all data in connection with federally
92 funded or assisted welfare programs as federal law may require,
93 including, but not limited to, Section 411 of the Personal
94 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and
95 its implementing regulations and any amendments thereto as may
96 from time to time be enacted. Such data shall be made available
97 to the public within a week after it has been sent to the U.S.
98 Department of Health and Human Services at each regional office of
99 the Department of Human Services or at the Department of Human
100 Services website.

101 (2) In addition to and on the same schedule as the data
102 collection required by federal law and subsection (a), the
103 Department of Human Services is hereby authorized to contract with
104 the Institution of Higher Learning Welfare Policy Institute to
105 conduct a longitudinal study of the implementation of TANF and
106 related welfare reforms with respect to the Temporary Assistance
107 for Needy Families (TANF) work program as follows:

108 (a) With respect to denials of applications for
109 benefits, all of the same information about the family required
110 under the federal law, plus the specific reason or reasons for
111 denial of the application.

112 (b) With respect to all terminations of benefits, all
113 of the same information as required under the federal law, plus
114 the specific reason or reasons for the termination.

115 Whether or not reports under this section must be submitted
116 to the federal government, they shall be considered public and
117 they shall be promptly made available to the public at the end of
118 each fiscal year, free of charge upon request. All data
119 underlying the past and present reports shall be made available to
120 academic institutions and public policy organizations involved in
121 the study of welfare issues or programs in ways that conform with
122 applicable privacy laws. The cost shall be no more than that
123 incurred by the Department of Human Services in copying and
124 mailing the data.

125 The Welfare policy Institute shall select/invite qualified
126 researchers from public and private universities to participate in
127 the study. This study may be funded by federal and/or state
128 dollars. The study shall select samples representative of the
129 assistance population, taking into account the length of time
130 receiving TANF/AFDC benefits, type of area of residence (city,
131 suburban, small town, rural), level of education, literacy, work
132 experience, number of adults in the home, number and age of
133 children in the home, teen parentage, English proficiency where
134 relevant and other such subgroups chosen by the institution. The
135 study shall assemble a statistically valid sample of cases
136 sanctioned off or enrolled in the TANF program prior to or on
137 October 1 of each year, beginning with 1998 and tracking these
138 groups over time.

139 (c) The Welfare Policy Institute shall devise the study
140 and identify the factors to be studied by not later than August
141 31, 2000. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the
142 following:

143 (i) The study shall include demographic breakdowns
144 including, but not limited to, race, gender, age and number of
145 children in the household.

146 (ii) The subjects of the study shall be followed
147 after denial or termination of assistance, to the extent feasible.

148 The evaluator shall attempt to maintain personal contact with the
149 subjects of the study, and employ such methods as meetings,

150 telephone contacts, written surveys and computer matches with
151 other databases to accomplish this purpose. The intent of this
152 feature of the study is to discover the paths people take after
153 leaving welfare and the patterns of return to welfare, including
154 the factors that may influence these paths and patterns.

155 (iii) The study shall examine the influence of
156 various employability, education and training programs upon
157 employment, earnings, job tenure and cycling between welfare and
158 work (repeated application for welfare between periods of
159 employment).

160 (iv) The study shall examine the influence of
161 various supportive services such as child care (including type and
162 cost), transportation and payment of initial employment expenses
163 upon employment, earnings, job tenure and cycling between welfare
164 and work.

165 (v) The study shall examine the influence of
166 government benefits that are authorized by TANF to be received by
167 subjects after they have been employed upon employment, earnings,
168 job tenure and cycling between welfare and work.

169 (vi) The study shall examine the frequency of
170 unplanned occurrences in subjects' lives, such as illness or
171 injury, family members' illness or injury, car breakdown, strikes,
172 natural disasters, evictions, loss of other sources of income,
173 domestic violence and crime, and their impact upon employment,
174 earnings, job tenure and cycling between welfare and work.

175 (vii) The study shall examine the wages and other
176 compensation, including health benefits and what they cost the
177 employee, received by subjects who obtain employment, the type and
178 characteristics of jobs, the hours and time of day of work, union
179 status and the relationships of such factors to earnings, job
180 tenure and cycling between welfare and work.

181 (viii) The study shall examine the reasons for
182 subjects' job loss, the availability of unemployment insurance,
183 the reasons for a subject's return to welfare, programs or
184 services utilized by subjects in the search for another job, the

185 characteristics of the subjects' next job and the relationships of
186 these factors to re-employment, earnings, job tenure on the new
187 job and cycling between welfare and work.

188 (ix) The study shall examine the impact of
189 mandatory work requirements, including the types of work
190 activities to which the subjects were assigned, and the links
191 between the requirements and the activities and sanctions,
192 employment, earnings, job tenure and cycling between welfare and
193 work.

194 (x) The study shall identify all sources and
195 amounts of reported household nonwage income and examine the
196 influence of the sources and amounts of nonwage, nonwelfare income
197 on employment, earnings, job tenure and cycling between welfare
198 and work.

199 (xi) The study shall examine sanctions, including
200 child support enforcement and paternity establishment, the reasons
201 sanctions are threatened, the number threatened, the number
202 imposed and the reasons sanctions are not imposed or are ended,
203 such as cooperation achieved or good cause established.

204 (xii) The study shall track the subjects' usage of
205 TANF benefits over the course of the lifetime sixty-month limit of
206 TANF eligibility, including patterns of usage, relationships
207 between consecutive usage of large numbers of months and other
208 factors, status of all study subjects with respect to the time
209 limit as of each report, characteristics of subjects exhausting
210 the eligibility limit, types of exceptions granted to the
211 sixty-month limit and numbers of cases within each type of
212 exception.

213 (xiii) The study shall track the subjects'
214 participation in other public systems, including the public
215 schools, the child welfare system, the criminal justice system,
216 homeless and food services and others, and attempt to identify the
217 positive or negative ripple effects in these systems of welfare
218 policies, systems and procedures.

219 (xiv) The study shall examine the impact of the

220 TANF program on the local economy and on other state agencies.

221 (d) The study authorized by this section shall only be
222 funded by the Department of Human Services from the TANF program
223 federal block grant not to exceed Three Hundred Fifty Thousand
224 Dollars (\$350,000.00) annually.

225 (e) All data, statistics, computer software and reports
226 made under this section shall be considered public records and the
227 property of the Department of Human Services.

228 SECTION 4. (1) The Department of Human Services shall
229 collect and report upon all data in connection with federally
230 funded or assisted welfare programs as federal law may require,
231 including, but not limited to, Section 411 of the Personal
232 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and
233 its implementing regulations and any amendments thereto as may
234 from time to time be enacted. Such data shall be made available
235 to the public within one (1) week after it has been sent to the
236 United States Department of Health and Human Services at each
237 regional office of the Department of Human Services.

238 (2) On the same schedule as the data collection required by
239 federal law and subsection (1) of this section, the Department of
240 Human Services shall collect and report additional information
241 with respect to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
242 program, as follows:

243 (a) With respect to denials of applications for
244 benefits, all of the information about the family as required
245 under federal law, plus the specific reason or reasons for denial
246 of the application.

247 (b) With respect to all terminations of benefits, all
248 of the information as required under federal law, plus the
249 specific reason or reasons for the termination or sanction.

250 (3) The Department of Human Services shall collect all of
251 the data as set forth in subsections (1) and (2) of this section
252 on all cash assistance benefits provided to TANF recipients that
253 are not funded from the TANF program federal block grant or are
254 not otherwise required to be included in the data collection and

255 reporting provided for in subsections (1) and (2) of this section,
256 and shall report such information on the same schedule as is
257 required for the information collected in subsections (1) and (2)
258 of this section.

259 (4) Reports made under this section shall be considered
260 public records and shall promptly be made available to the public
261 upon request at the end of each fiscal year at a reasonable cost
262 directly related to the cost of copying and mailing the reports.
263 The data underlying the reports shall be made available to
264 academic institutions and public policy organizations involved in
265 the study of welfare issues or programs after any reductions made
266 to conform with applicable privacy laws. The data shall be
267 provided by the Department of Human Services at a reasonable cost
268 directly related to the cost of copying and mailing the data.

269 (5) No later than July 1, 2000, the Department of Human
270 Services shall appoint seven (7) persons to an advisory panel.
271 Four (4) panel members shall be experienced researchers in welfare
272 policy, social science and other related fields from institutions
273 of higher learning located in the Delta, northeast, southwest,
274 southern or urban areas of Mississippi, one (1) member shall be a
275 representative of the business community, one (1) member shall be
276 a current or former welfare recipient, and one (1) member shall be
277 representative of a nonprofit human service organization. The
278 role of the advisory panel is to ensure input from all sectors in
279 the development of the research design and during the research
280 process. Its role is advisory in nature and it is not empowered
281 to direct the research effort or to specify results. The advisory
282 panel shall have the following responsibilities:

283 (a) To advise researchers with regard to availability
284 of data pertaining to elements to be studied according to
285 legislation;

286 (b) To play a consulting role in reviewing and reacting
287 to the overall research design of the study;

288 (c) To review interim and final reports of the research
289 team; and

290 (d) To review and advise researchers on policy
291 recommendations emanating from the research process.

292 Analysis and interpretation of data gathered under the
293 guidance of the research design and based upon the specifics
294 delineated by the legislation shall be solely the responsibility
295 of the Institution of Higher Learning Welfare Policy Institute.

296 SECTION 5. The Department of Human Services shall cooperate
297 in any study funded by a federal, state, county or municipal body,
298 and conducted by an independent expert, concerning the impact upon
299 Mississippi residents of the denial or termination of assistance
300 under the Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid and Title XX social services
301 programs pursuant to the changes enacted in the federal Personal
302 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.
303 The purpose of such a study must be to examine the immediate and
304 long-term effects on this population and on the state of the
305 denial or termination of these forms of assistance, including the
306 impact on the individuals, the alternate means they find to obtain
307 support and care, and the impact on state and local spending and
308 human services delivery systems. Such a study shall select a
309 statistically valid sample of persons denied or terminated from
310 each type of benefit and attempt to track them at least until July
311 31, 2002. Any reports from studies conducted with the cooperation
312 of the Department of Human Services shall be made available to the
313 Legislature upon request, and a final report shall be submitted
314 upon completion. These reports shall be available to the public
315 upon request.

316 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
317 and after its passage; and Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act shall
318 stand repealed from and after July 1, 2003.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-27-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO USE FEDERAL FUNDS
3 TO EMPLOY ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN TIME-LIMITED POSITIONS AND
4 TO DELETE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH
5 TIME-LIMITED POSITIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 73-53-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE

6 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF
7 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC ENTITY BEFORE JULY
8 1, 1993, WHO IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AS AN
9 EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC ENTITY ON JULY 1, 2000, SHALL BE ISSUED A
10 LICENSE AS A SOCIAL WORKER IF THE PERSON APPLIES FOR THE LICENSE
11 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2000; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
12 SERVICES SHALL COLLECT AND REPORT UPON ALL DATA IN CONNECTION WITH
13 FEDERALLY FUNDED OR ASSISTED WELFARE PROGRAMS AS FEDERAL LAW MAY
14 REQUIRE, INCLUDING SECTION 411 OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
15 WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 AND TEMPORARY
16 ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) AND MAKE SUCH INFORMATION
17 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
18 SERVICES TO CONTRACT WITH THE WELFARE POLICY INSTITUTE TO CONDUCT
19 A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TANF; AND FOR
20 RELATED PURPOSES.