

By: Senator(s) Huggins, Simmons, Harvey, Lee

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2032

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY THE DATES REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
3 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE ON-LINE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER
4 (EBT) SYSTEM FOR FOOD STAMPS AND TO REVISE THE CRITERIA FOR AN EBT
5 SYSTEM PILOT PROJECT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 43-1-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 43-1-28. (1) The Department of Human Services shall develop
10 an on-line electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the food
11 stamp program in Mississippi as an alternative to issuing food
12 stamp coupons. The EBT system developed by the department under
13 this section shall (a) provide that food stamp benefits are stored
14 in and issued from a central computer data base and are
15 electronically accessed by households at the point of sale through
16 the use of reusable magnetic-stripe plastic cards; and (b) meet
17 all requirements and standards specified in 7 USCS Section 2016(i)
18 and the rules and regulations issued under that provision for
19 approval by the Secretary of the United States Department of
20 Agriculture.

21 (2) The department shall * * * develop * * * the EBT
22 system * * * and shall submit an application to the Secretary of
23 the United States Department of Agriculture for approval of the
24 system. After the EBT system has been approved, the department
25 shall * * * implement and operate the system as a pilot project in
26 a county selected by the department * * *. After the pilot
27 project has been evaluated and approved by the United States
28 Department of Agriculture, and subject to the availability of

29 funds specifically appropriated therefor, the system may be
30 expanded statewide at a rate determined by the Executive Director
31 of the Department of Human Services. The system shall be expanded
32 and implemented statewide not later than October 1, 2002.

33 (3) The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount
34 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of
35 administering the EBT system.

36 (4) The Department of Human Services may develop an on-line
37 electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the Temporary
38 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Mississippi as an
39 alternative to issuing cash or voucher payments. The EBT system
40 developed by the department under this section shall (a) provide
41 that TANF benefits are stored in and issued from a central
42 computer data base and are electronically accessed; and (b) meet
43 all requirements and standards specified in the Personal
44 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
45 (Public Law 104-193), and the rules and regulations issued under
46 that act. The department shall seek to obtain the maximum amount
47 of federal financial participation available to fund the cost of
48 administering the EBT system for TANF payments.

49 (5) In order to facilitate the acquisition and deployment of
50 EBT products and services in Mississippi, the Department of Human
51 Services (DHS) and the Mississippi Department of Information
52 Technology Services (MDITS), at their discretion, may utilize EBT
53 agreements from other states and/or multistate coalition
54 agreements that allow other states to acquire EBT products and
55 services. After going through the approved ITS bidding process
56 and the state is unable to acquire an EBT contract, DHS and ITS
57 may negotiate an EBT contract with any vendor who meets DHS and
58 ITS, EBT requirements.

59 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after its passage.