

By: Representatives Dickson, Fleming

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1088
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE TEMPORARY
2 ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE
3 COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STATE TANF PROGRAM'S
4 PROGRESS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AND MAKE A REPORT TO THE 2008
5 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a Study Committee on the
8 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program, which shall
9 make study and recommendations on all aspects of the state TANF
10 program's progress over the past ten (10) years. The committee
11 shall, at a minimum, study and report to the 2008 Regular Session
12 of the Legislature on the following:

13 (a) The outcome of state TANF and other welfare
14 programs for the last ten (10) years.

15 (b) The economic climate, in terms of looking for
16 savings in state welfare programs.

17 (c) The economy's potential to increase the number of
18 welfare recipients/participants, as well as increasing
19 expenditures in such areas as child care, which are necessary to
20 keep recipients in the workforce.

21 (d) Mississippi's struggle to resolve the issue of
22 long-term clients.

23 (e) The state's role in aiding those in need of help
24 with substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and
25 learning disabilities.

26 (f) The state's ability to continue the innovative
27 programs that have been established in recent years, including:

28 (i) Educational after school programs;

29 (ii) Early childhood development programs; and

30 (iii) Teen pregnancy programs.

31 (g) Viability of programs to last based upon the
32 state's economy and wealth.

33 (h) The state's flexibility in using the TANF block
34 grant by meeting the federal work mandates and complying with the
35 five (5) year time limit on benefits.

36 (i) The state's flexibility in using the TANF block
37 grant to assist recipients in vocational, technical and
38 post-secondary educational opportunities.

39 (j) Families' ability to move toward self-sufficiency.

40 (k) The outlook for welfare parents who have found work
41 at the entry level jobs.

42 (l) Parents' inability to support their families.

43 (m) Means of increasing work participation among
44 recipients of TANF benefits.

45 (n) Making welfare work on a fixed budget.

46 The committee shall make a report of its findings and
47 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2007, including
48 any recommended legislation.

49 (2) The committee shall be composed of the following fifteen
50 (15) members:

51 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriation
52 Committees;

53 (b) The Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and
54 Welfare Committee and the House Public Health and Human Services
55 Committee;

56 (c) One (1) senator to be appointed by the Lieutenant
57 Governor;

58 (d) One (1) representative to be appointed by the
59 Speaker of the House;

60 (e) One (1) member of the State Board for Community and
61 Junior Colleges;

62 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of
63 Health, or his designee;

64 (g) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
65 Services, or his designee;

66 (h) The Executive Director of the Department of
67 Rehabilitative Services, or his designee;

68 (i) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
69 Department of Employment Security, or his designee;

70 (j) The Executive Director of the Department of Mental
71 Health, or his designee;

72 (k) Two (2) recipients of TANF benefits, one (1) to be
73 appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one (1) to be appointed
74 by the Lieutenant Governor;

75 (l) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Chapter
76 of the National Association of Social Workers;

77 (m) The Attorney General, or his designee;

78 (n) One (1) representative from a statewide youth
79 development organization appointed by the Speaker of the House;
80 and

81 (o) One (1) representative from a statewide youth
82 development organization appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

83 (3) Appointments to the committee shall be made within
84 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. The
85 committee shall hold its first meeting before August 1, 2007. The
86 Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the
87 House Public Health and Human Services Committee shall serve as
88 cochairmen of the committee.

89 (4) A majority of the members of the committee shall
90 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of rules, resolutions and
91 reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be
92 required. All members shall be notified in writing of all
93 meetings, the notices to be mailed at least five (5) days before
94 the date on which a meeting is to be held.

95 (5) Members of the committee shall receive the customary per
96 diem compensation, expense reimbursement and mileage for attending
97 committee meetings as provided in Sections 25-3-41 and 25-3-69.

98 (6) The committee is authorized to accept funds from any
99 source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its
100 duties under this section.

101 (7) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
102 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
103 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request
104 of the cochairmen of the committee, provide such facilities,
105 assistance and data as will enable the committee to properly carry
106 out its duties.

107 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
108 and after July 1, 2007.