

By: Representative Johnson

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 711

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE AND
3 TRANSPORTATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR TANF BENEFITS DURING THE
4 APPLICATION PROCESSING PERIOD, JOB READINESS CLASS, WORK PROGRAM
5 INTAKE PROCESS AND OTHER INITIAL ORIENTATION MEETINGS; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 43-17-5. (1) The amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy
11 Families (TANF) benefits which may be granted for any dependent
12 child and a needy caretaker relative shall be determined by the
13 county department with due regard to the resources and necessary
14 expenditures of the family and the conditions existing in each
15 case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the
16 Department of Human Services which shall not be less than the
17 Standard of Need in effect for 1988, and shall be sufficient when
18 added to all other income (except that any income specified in the
19 federal Social Security Act, as amended, may be disregarded) and
20 support available to the child to provide such child with a



21 reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The
22 first family member in the dependent child's budget may receive an
23 amount not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month; the
24 second family member in the dependent child's budget may receive
25 an amount not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) per month; and
26 each additional family member in the dependent child's budget an
27 amount not to exceed Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) per month. The
28 maximum for any individual family member in the dependent child's
29 budget may be exceeded for foster or medical care or in cases of
30 children with an intellectual disability or a physical disability.
31 TANF benefits granted shall be specifically limited only (a) to
32 children existing or conceived at the time the caretaker relative
33 initially applies and qualifies for such assistance, unless this
34 limitation is specifically waived by the department, or (b) to a
35 child born following a twelve-consecutive-month period of
36 discontinued benefits by the caretaker relative.

37 (2) TANF benefits in Mississippi shall be provided to the
38 recipient family by an online electronic benefits transfer system.

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

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



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

49 (c) Families not assigning to the state any rights a
50 family member may have, on behalf of the family member or of any
51 other person for whom the family member has applied for or is
52 receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, as
53 required by law;

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

56 (e) Any individual who has not attained eighteen (18)
57 years of age, is not married to the head of household, has a minor
58 child at least twelve (12) weeks of age in his or her care, and
59 has not successfully completed a high school education or its
60 equivalent, if such individual does not participate in educational
61 activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma
62 or its equivalent, or an alternative educational or training
63 program approved by the department;

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



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

72 (h) Any individual who is a parent or other caretaker
73 relative of a minor child who fails to notify the department of
74 the absence of the minor child from the home for the thirty-day
75 period specified in paragraph (g), by the end of the five-day
76 period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the
77 individual that the minor child will be absent for the thirty-day
78 period;

79 (i) Any individual who fails to comply with the
80 provisions of the Employability Development Plan signed by the
81 individual which prescribe those activities designed to help the
82 individual become and remain employed, or to participate
83 satisfactorily in the assigned work activity, as authorized under
84 subsection (6) (c) and (d), or who does not engage in applicant job
85 search activities within the thirty-day period for TANF
86 application approval after receiving the advice and consultation
87 of eligibility workers and/or caseworkers of the department
88 providing a detailed description of available job search venues in
89 the individual's county of residence or the surrounding counties;

90 (j) A parent or caretaker relative who has not engaged
91 in an allowable work activity once the department determines the
92 parent or caretaker relative is ready to engage in work, or once
93 the parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance



94 under the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not
95 consecutive, whichever is earlier;

96 (k) Any individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution,
97 or custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the
98 jurisdiction from which the individual flees, for a crime, or an
99 attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the
100 place from which the individual flees, or who is violating a
101 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state
102 law;

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

104 (m) For a period of ten (10) years following
105 conviction, individuals convicted in federal or state court of
106 having made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect
107 to the individual's place of residence in order to receive TANF,
108 food stamps or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance under
109 Title XVI or Title XIX simultaneously from two (2) or more states;

110 (n) Individuals who are recipients of federal
111 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) assistance; and

112 (o) Individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or
113 older who are not in compliance with the drug testing and
114 substance use disorder treatment requirements of Section 43-17-6.

115 (4) (a) Any person who is otherwise eligible for TANF
116 benefits, including custodial and noncustodial parents, shall be
117 required to attend school and meet the monthly attendance



118 requirement as provided in this subsection if all of the following
119 apply:

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

121 (ii) The person has not graduated from a public or
122 private high school or obtained a High School Equivalency Diploma
123 equivalent;

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

126 (iv) If the person is a parent or caretaker
127 relative with whom a dependent child is living, child care is
128 available for the child.

129 The monthly attendance requirement under this subsection
130 shall be attendance at the school in which the person is enrolled
131 for each day during a month that the school conducts classes in
132 which the person is enrolled, with not more than two (2) absences
133 during the month for reasons other than the reasons listed in
134 paragraph (e)(iv) of this subsection. Persons who fail to meet
135 participation requirements in this subsection shall be subject to
136 sanctions as provided in paragraph (f) of this subsection.

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

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

140 (ii) A vocational, technical and adult education
141 program; or



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

145 (c) If any compulsory-school-age child, as defined in
146 Section 37-13-91(2), to which TANF eligibility requirements apply
147 is not in compliance with the compulsory school attendance
148 requirements of Section 37-13-91(6), the superintendent of schools
149 of the school district in which the child is enrolled or eligible
150 to attend shall notify the county department of human services of
151 the child's noncompliance. The Department of Human Services shall
152 review school attendance information as provided under this
153 paragraph at all initial eligibility determinations and upon
154 subsequent report of unsatisfactory attendance.

155 (d) The signature of a person on an application for
156 TANF benefits constitutes permission for the release of school
157 attendance records for that person or for any child residing with
158 that person. The department shall request information from the
159 child's school district about the child's attendance in the school
160 district's most recently completed semester of attendance. If
161 information about the child's previous school attendance is not
162 available or cannot be verified, the department shall require the
163 child to meet the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
164 semester or until the information is obtained. The department
165 shall use the attendance information provided by a school district
166 to verify attendance for a child. The department shall review



167 with the parent or caretaker relative a child's claim that he or
168 she has a good cause for not attending school.

169 A school district shall provide information to the department
170 about the attendance of a child who is enrolled in a public school
171 in the district within five (5) working days of the receipt of a
172 written request for that information from the department. The
173 school district shall define how many hours of attendance count as
174 a full day and shall provide that information, upon request, to
175 the department. In reporting attendance, the school district may
176 add partial days' absence together to constitute a full day's
177 absence.

178 If a school district fails to provide to the department the
179 information about the school attendance of any child within
180 fifteen (15) working days after a written request, the department
181 shall notify the Department of Audit within three (3) working days
182 of the school district's failure to comply with that requirement.
183 The Department of Audit shall begin audit proceedings within five
184 (5) working days of notification by the Department of Human
185 Services to determine the school district's compliance with the
186 requirements of this subsection (4). If the Department of Audit
187 finds that the school district is not in compliance with the
188 requirements of this subsection, the school district shall be
189 penalized as follows: The Department of Audit shall notify the
190 State Department of Education of the school district's
191 noncompliance, and the Department of Education shall reduce the



192 calculation of the school district's average daily attendance
193 (ADA) that is used to determine the allocation of Mississippi
194 Adequate Education Program funds by the number of children for
195 which the district has failed to provide to the Department of
196 Human Services the required information about the school
197 attendance of those children. The reduction in the calculation of
198 the school district's ADA under this paragraph shall be effective
199 for a period of one (1) year.

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

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

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

209 (iii) The child is prohibited by the school
210 district from attending school and an expulsion is pending. This
211 exemption no longer applies once the teenager has been expelled;
212 however, a teenager who has been expelled and is making
213 satisfactory progress towards obtaining a High School Equivalency
214 Diploma equivalent shall be eligible for TANF benefits; or

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



- 217 1. Illness, injury or incapacity of the child
218 or the minor parent's child;
219 2. Court-required appearances or temporary
220 incarceration;
221 3. Medical or dental appointments for the
222 child or minor parent's child;
223 4. Death of a close relative;
224 5. Observance of a religious holiday;
225 6. Family emergency;
226 7. Breakdown in transportation;
227 8. Suspension; or
228 9. Any other circumstance beyond the control
229 of the child, as defined in regulations of the department.

230 (f) Upon determination that a child has failed without
231 good cause to attend school as required, the department shall
232 provide written notice to the parent or caretaker relative
233 (whoever is the primary recipient of the TANF benefits) that
234 specifies:

235 (i) That the family will be sanctioned in the next
236 possible payment month because the child who is required to attend
237 school has failed to meet the attendance requirement of this
238 subsection;

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



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

244 The child's parent or caretaker relative (whoever is the
245 primary recipient of the TANF benefits) may request a fair hearing
246 on the department's determination that the child has not been
247 attending school. If the child's parents or caretaker relative
248 does not request a fair hearing under this subsection, or if,
249 after a fair hearing has been held, the hearing officer finds that
250 the child without good cause has failed to meet the monthly
251 attendance requirement, the department shall discontinue or deny
252 TANF benefits to the child thirteen (13) years old, or older, in
253 the next possible payment month. The department shall discontinue
254 or deny twenty-five percent (25%) of the family grant when a child
255 six (6) through twelve (12) years of age without good cause has
256 failed to meet the monthly attendance requirement. Both the child
257 and family sanction may apply when children in both age groups
258 fail to meet the attendance requirement without good cause. A
259 sanction applied under this subsection shall be effective for one
260 (1) month for each month that the child failed to meet the monthly
261 attendance requirement. In the case of a dropout, the sanction
262 shall remain in force until the parent or caretaker relative
263 provides written proof from the school district that the child has
264 reenrolled and met the monthly attendance requirement for one (1)
265 calendar month. Any month in which school is in session for at



266 least ten (10) days during the month may be used to meet the
267 attendance requirement under this subsection. This includes
268 attendance at summer school. The sanction shall be removed the
269 next possible payment month.

270 (5) All parents or caretaker relatives shall have their
271 dependent children receive vaccinations and booster vaccinations
272 against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer under
273 Section 41-23-37 in accordance with the vaccination and booster
274 vaccination schedule prescribed by the State Health Officer for
275 children of that age, in order for the parents or caretaker
276 relatives to be eligible or remain eligible to receive TANF
277 benefits. Proof of having received such vaccinations and booster
278 vaccinations shall be given by presenting the certificates of
279 vaccination issued by any health care provider licensed to
280 administer vaccinations, and submitted on forms specified by the
281 State Board of Health. If the parents without good cause do not
282 have their dependent children receive the vaccinations and booster
283 vaccinations as required by this subsection and they fail to
284 comply after thirty (30) days' notice, the department shall
285 sanction the family's TANF benefits by twenty-five percent (25%)
286 for the next payment month and each subsequent payment month until
287 the requirements of this subsection are met.

288 (6) (a) If the parent or caretaker relative applying for
289 TANF assistance is work eligible, as determined by the Department
290 of Human Services, the person shall be required to engage in an



291 allowable work activity once the department determines the parent
292 or caretaker relative is determined work eligible, or once the
293 parent or caretaker relative has received TANF assistance under
294 the program for twenty-four (24) months, whether or not
295 consecutive, whichever is earlier. No TANF benefits shall be
296 given to any person to whom this section applies who fails without
297 good cause to comply with the Employability Development Plan
298 prepared by the department for the person, or who has refused to
299 accept a referral or offer of employment, training or education in
300 which he or she is able to engage, subject to the penalties
301 prescribed in paragraph (e) of this subsection. A person shall be
302 deemed to have refused to accept a referral or offer of
303 employment, training or education if he or she:

304 (i) Willfully fails to report for an interview
305 with respect to employment when requested to do so by the
306 department; or

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

309 (iii) Willfully fails to report for allowable work
310 activities as prescribed in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this
311 subsection.

312 (b) The Department of Human Services shall operate a
313 statewide work program for TANF recipients to provide work
314 activities and supportive services to enable families to become
315 self-sufficient and improve their competitive position in the



316 workforce in accordance with the requirements of the federal
317 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
318 1996 (Public Law 104-193), as amended, and the regulations
319 promulgated thereunder, and the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005
320 (Public Law 109-171), as amended. Within sixty (60) days after
321 the initial application for TANF benefits, the TANF recipient must
322 participate in a job search skills training workshop or a job
323 readiness program, which shall include resume writing, job search
324 skills, employability skills and, if available at no charge, the
325 General Aptitude Test Battery or its equivalent. All adults who
326 are not specifically exempt shall be referred by the department
327 for allowable work activities. An adult may be exempt from the
328 mandatory work activity requirement for the following reasons:

329 (i) Incapacity;

330 (ii) Temporary illness or injury, verified by
331 physician's certificate;

332 (iii) Is in the third trimester of pregnancy, and
333 there are complications verified by the certificate of a
334 physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or any other
335 licensed health care professional practicing under a protocol with
336 a licensed physician;

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



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

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

344 (vii) Receiving treatment for substance abuse, if
345 the person is in compliance with the substance abuse treatment
346 plan;

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

350 (ix) History of having been a victim of domestic
351 violence, which has been reported as required by state law and is
352 substantiated by police reports or court records, and being at
353 risk of further domestic violence, shall be exempt for a period as
354 deemed necessary by the department but not to exceed a total of
355 twelve (12) months, which need not be consecutive, in the
356 sixty-month maximum benefit period. For the purposes of this
357 subparagraph (ix), "domestic violence" means that an individual
358 has been subjected to:

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

361 2. Sexual abuse;

362 3. Sexual activity involving a dependent
363 child;



364 4. Being forced as the caretaker relative of
365 a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or
366 activities;

367 5. Threats of, or attempts at, physical or
368 sexual abuse;

369 6. Mental abuse; or

370 7. Neglect or deprivation of medical care.

371 (c) For all families, all adults who are not
372 specifically exempt shall be required to participate in work
373 activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per
374 week specified by federal law or regulation, not fewer than twenty
375 (20) hours per week (thirty-five (35) hours per week for
376 two-parent families) of which are attributable to the following
377 allowable work activities:

378 (i) Unsubsidized employment;

379 (ii) Subsidized private employment;

380 (iii) Subsidized public employment;

381 (iv) Work experience (including work associated
382 with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing), if sufficient
383 private employment is not available;

384 (v) On-the-job training;

385 (vi) Job search and job readiness assistance
386 consistent with federal TANF regulations;

387 (vii) Community service programs;



388 (viii) Vocational educational training (not to
389 exceed twelve (12) months with respect to any individual);

390 (ix) The provision of child care services to an
391 individual who is participating in a community service program;

392 (x) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in a
393 course of study leading to a high school equivalency certificate,
394 for heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not
395 completed high school or received such certificate;

396 (xi) Education directly related to employment, for
397 heads of household under age twenty (20) who have not completed
398 high school or received such equivalency certificate.

399 (d) The following are allowable work activities which
400 may be attributable to hours in excess of the minimum specified in
401 paragraph (c) of this subsection:

402 (i) Job skills training directly related to
403 employment;

404 (ii) Education directly related to employment for
405 individuals who have not completed high school or received a high
406 school equivalency certificate;

407 (iii) Satisfactory attendance at high school or in
408 a course of study leading to a high school equivalency, for
409 individuals who have not completed high school or received such
410 equivalency certificate;

411 (iv) Job search and job readiness assistance
412 consistent with federal TANF regulations.



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

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

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

426 (iii) For the third violation, the department
427 shall terminate the TANF assistance otherwise payable to the
428 family for a twelve-month period or until the person has complied
429 with the required work activity, whichever is longer;

430 (iv) For the fourth violation, the person shall be
431 permanently disqualified.

432 For a two-parent family, unless prohibited by state or
433 federal law, Medicaid assistance shall be terminated only for the
434 person whose failure to participate in allowable work activity
435 caused the family's TANF assistance to be sanctioned under this
436 paragraph (e), unless an individual is pregnant, but shall not be
437 terminated for any other person in the family who is meeting that



438 person's applicable work requirement or who is not required to
439 work. Minor children shall continue to be eligible for Medicaid
440 benefits regardless of the disqualification of their parent or
441 caretaker relative for TANF assistance under this subsection (6),
442 unless prohibited by state or federal law.

443 (f) Any person enrolled in a two-year or four-year
444 college program who meets the eligibility requirements to receive
445 TANF benefits, and who is meeting the applicable work requirements
446 and all other applicable requirements of the TANF program, shall
447 continue to be eligible for TANF benefits while enrolled in the
448 college program for as long as the person meets the requirements
449 of the TANF program, unless prohibited by federal law.

450 (g) No adult in a work activity required under this
451 subsection (6) shall be employed or assigned (i) when any other
452 individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially
453 equivalent job within six (6) months before the date of the TANF
454 recipient's employment or assignment; or (ii) if the employer has
455 terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise
456 caused an involuntary reduction of its workforce in order to fill
457 the vacancy so created with an adult receiving TANF assistance.
458 The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, established
459 under Section 71-5-101, shall appoint one or more impartial
460 hearing officers to hear and decide claims by employees of
461 violations of this paragraph (g). The hearing officer shall hear
462 all the evidence with respect to any claim made hereunder and such



463 additional evidence as he may require and shall make a
464 determination and the reason therefor. The claimant shall be
465 promptly notified of the decision of the hearing officer and the
466 reason therefor. Within ten (10) days after the decision of the
467 hearing officer has become final, any party aggrieved thereby may
468 secure judicial review thereof by commencing an action, in the
469 circuit court of the county in which the claimant resides, against
470 the department for the review of such decision, in which action
471 any other party to the proceeding before the hearing officer shall
472 be made a defendant. Any such appeal shall be on the record which
473 shall be certified to the court by the department in the manner
474 provided in Section 71-5-531, and the jurisdiction of the court
475 shall be confined to questions of law which shall render its
476 decision as provided in that section.

477 (7) The Department of Human Services may provide child care
478 for eligible participants who require such care so that they may
479 accept employment or remain employed. The department may also
480 provide child care for those participating in the TANF program
481 when it is determined that they are satisfactorily involved in
482 education, training or other allowable work activities. The
483 department shall provide child care for applicants for TANF
484 benefits during the application processing period, job readiness
485 class, work program intake process and other initial orientation
486 meetings. The department may contract with Head Start agencies to
487 provide child care services to TANF recipients. The department



488 may also arrange for child care by use of contract or vouchers,
489 provide vouchers in advance to a caretaker relative, reimburse a
490 child care provider, or use any other arrangement deemed
491 appropriate by the department, and may establish different
492 reimbursement rates for child care services depending on the
493 category of the facility or home. Any center-based or group home
494 child care facility under this subsection shall be licensed by the
495 State Department of Health pursuant to law. When child care is
496 being provided in the child's own home, in the home of a relative
497 of the child, or in any other unlicensed setting, the provision of
498 such child care may be monitored on a random basis by the
499 Department of Human Services or the State Department of Health.
500 Transitional child care assistance may be continued if it is
501 necessary for parents to maintain employment once support has
502 ended, unless prohibited under state or federal law. Transitional
503 child care assistance may be provided for up to twenty-four (24)
504 months after the last month during which the family was eligible
505 for TANF assistance, if federal funds are available for such child
506 care assistance.

507 (8) The Department of Human Services may provide
508 transportation or provide reasonable reimbursement for
509 transportation expenses that are necessary for individuals to be
510 able to participate in allowable work activity under the TANF
511 program. The department shall provide transportation for
512 applicants for TANF benefits during the application processing



513 period, job readiness class, work program intake process and other
514 initial orientation meetings.

515 (9) Medicaid assistance shall be provided to a family of
516 TANF program participants for up to twenty-four (24) consecutive
517 calendar months following the month in which the participating
518 family would be ineligible for TANF benefits because of increased
519 income, expiration of earned income disregards, or increased hours
520 of employment of the caretaker relative; however, Medicaid
521 assistance for more than twelve (12) months may be provided only
522 if a federal waiver is obtained to provide such assistance for
523 more than twelve (12) months and federal and state funds are
524 available to provide such assistance.

525 (10) The department shall require applicants for and
526 recipients of public assistance from the department to sign a
527 personal responsibility contract that will require the applicant
528 or recipient to acknowledge his or her responsibilities to the
529 state.

530 (11) The department shall enter into an agreement with the
531 State Personnel Board and other state agencies that will allow
532 those TANF participants who qualify for vacant jobs within state
533 agencies to be placed in state jobs. State agencies participating
534 in the TANF work program shall receive any and all benefits
535 received by employers in the private sector for hiring TANF
536 recipients. This subsection (11) shall be effective only if the
537 state obtains any necessary federal waiver or approval and if



538 federal funds are available therefor. Not later than September 1,
539 2021, the department shall prepare a report, which shall be
540 provided to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Public Health
541 Committees and to any other member of the Legislature upon
542 request, on the history, status, outcomes and effectiveness of the
543 agreements required under this subsection.

544 (12) Any unspent TANF funds remaining from the prior fiscal
545 year may be expended for any TANF allowable activities.

546 (13) The Mississippi Department of Human Services shall
547 provide TANF applicants information and referral to programs that
548 provide information about birth control, prenatal health care,
549 abstinence education, marriage education, family preservation and
550 fatherhood. Not later than September 1, 2021, the department
551 shall prepare a report, which shall be provided to the Chairmen of
552 the House and Senate Public Health Committees and to any other
553 member of the Legislature upon request, on the history, status,
554 outcomes and effectiveness of the information and referral
555 requirements under this subsection.

556 (14) No new TANF program requirement or restriction
557 affecting a person's eligibility for TANF assistance, or allowable
558 work activity, which is not mandated by federal law or regulation
559 may be implemented by the Department of Human Services after July
560 1, 2004, unless such is specifically authorized by an amendment to
561 this section by the Legislature.



562 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
563 and after July 1, 2024.

