

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Simmons (13th),
Brumfield, Butler, Jackson, Simmons (12th)

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2327

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A
3 SUPPLEMENTARY STATE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY RECIPIENTS; TO
4 PROVIDE THAT RECIPIENTS MUST BE AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD; TO PROVIDE
5 THAT RECIPIENTS MAY RECEIVE ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MONTH; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 43-1-7. (1) The Department of Human Services may establish
11 family resource centers to help families who are receiving or are
12 eligible to receive assistance from government agencies to
13 facilitate their access to services and resources that will lead
14 to increased family independence.

15 (2) The department shall carry out an intense public
16 information campaign to inform low-income workers, and especially
17 public assistance recipients, of the availability of and
18 application rules for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC),
19 in order to maximize the refund of federal income tax withheld
20 from those persons. The information campaign shall include



21 publishing and circulating bulletins or notices to recipients of
22 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and other
23 public assistance that publicize and explain the EITC and the
24 criteria for family eligibility for the EITC. The department also
25 shall carry out an intense information campaign to inform
26 employers of the availability of and the criteria for eligibility
27 for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which offers employers
28 a credit against their federal tax liability for hiring people
29 from certain target groups, including TANF recipients, and to
30 inform employers of the availability of and the criteria for
31 eligibility for the state income tax credit for employers who hire
32 persons receiving TANF benefits as authorized under Section
33 27-7-22.1.

34 (3) The department shall establish and maintain a statewide
35 incoming wide area telephone service hotline for the purpose of
36 reporting suspected cases of welfare eligibility fraud, food stamp
37 fraud and Medicaid fraud. The department is authorized, subject
38 to the extent of appropriations available, to offer financial
39 incentives to individuals for reporting such suspected cases of
40 public assistance fraud.

41 (4) Any applicant for or recipient of TANF benefits or Food
42 Stamps shall be required to agree that, as a condition of
43 eligibility for those benefits, the person will cooperate with the
44 department in determining paternity for the purposes of enforcing
45 child support obligations. The department shall utilize methods



46 and procedures provided for by state or federal law in determining
47 paternity and enforcing child support obligations.

48 (5) The department shall establish and fund a supplementary
49 state food stamp program for elderly recipients. Applicants must
50 be at least sixty-five (65) years of age. Approved applicants for
51 such food stamp program may receive One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)
52 per month. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations
53 to administer such program.

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

