

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 911

5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield  
6 By: Representative Murdock  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO  
10 CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET  
11 LIMITS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
12 PROGRAM (SNAP) AND THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY  
13 FAMILIES (TANF); TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS,  
14 CONSISTENCY, AND EFFICIENCY OF PROGRAM  
15 ADMINISTRATION; TO UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL  
16 IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING THE CURRENT RESOURCE OR  
17 ASSET LIMITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

21 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
22 SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE  
23 CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET LIMITS FOR THE  
24 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
25 (SNAP) AND THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR  
26 NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF).  
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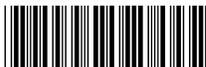
29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

32 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

33 (1) Public benefit programs currently restrict eligibility to  
34 individuals and families with few or no resources or assets to ensure that  
35 public resources are accurately allocated to those most in need;

36 (2) Resource or asset limits discourage savings and deter



1 families from making investments, potentially increasing the duration that a  
 2 family is reliant on public benefits;

3 (3) In theory, resource or asset limits cause public benefits to  
 4 be denied to families who are only marginally more financially secure than  
 5 those families that do qualify;

6 (4) The current resource or asset limit is two thousand dollars  
 7 (\$2,000) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and three  
 8 thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
 9 (TANF);

10 (5) The state has discretion to change or eliminate the resource  
 11 or asset limits for these and other programs administered by the Department  
 12 of Human Services; and

13 (6) To be prudent with our limited public resources, a study  
 14 should be conducted to analyze the potential effects of changing or  
 15 eliminating the resource or asset limits on the SNAP and TANF programs.

16 (b)(1) The department shall conduct a study on the effectiveness,  
 17 consistency, and efficiency of the SNAP and TANF public benefit programs and  
 18 program administration, including the impact of changing or eliminating  
 19 resource or asset limits.

20 (2) The study shall include without limitation:

21 (A) The number of applicants for SNAP and TANF that were  
 22 denied based on resource or asset limits;

23 (B) The cost associated with verifying resource or asset  
 24 limits, including staff time and department resources;

25 (C) The cost implications of changing or eliminating the  
 26 resource or asset limits;

27 (D) A review of practices, policies, and trends regarding  
 28 resource and asset limits in other states, including how they apply to the  
 29 SNAP and TANF programs; and

30 (E) An analysis of other public benefit programs that no  
 31 longer have resource or asset limits.

32 (3) The department shall submit a report to the General Assembly  
 33 no later than November 1, 2013, that contains information learned from the  
 34 study and findings and recommendations of the department as a result of the  
 35 study.

36 **APPROVED: 03/28/2013**