

## SENATE AMENDMENT 4 TO hb1295.

inserting on line 36 of page 9 a new subsection to read as follows:

"(c) The department shall promulgate regulations to determine resource eligibility and benefit levels for participating families. The regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following categories of income and resource disregards:

(1) To reward work, earned income from sources other than TEA;

(2) A certain percentage of a family s gross monthly income;

(3) The family s homestead;

(4) An operable motor vehicle per family;

(5) Household and personal goods;

(6) Income producing property;

(7) Monies deposited in an approved individual development account (IDA) or approved escrow account for business or career development;

(8) Any other property or resource specified in the TEA implementation plan which is determined to be cost-efficient to exclude or which must be excluded due to federal or state law."

AND

by deleting on line 36 of page 9 the language "(c)" and substituting the language "(e)";

AND

by deleting line 28 of page 14 and substituting the following:

"20-76-407. ~~Amount~~ Micro-lending Program and Individual Development Accounts.";

AND

by deleting line 36 of page 14 and all of page 15 and substituting the following:

"(a) (1) The department will make available a micro-lending program to low-income entrepreneurs. For the purpose of this section, a low-income entrepreneur is one who is starting or expanding a business and who meets the eligibility criteria established by the department for the micro-lending program. A micro-lending program is one which provides training, technical assistance, and loan funds to low-income entrepreneurs to start or expand a business venture.

(2) In accordance with their personal responsibility agreement, low-income entrepreneurs may escrow profits from their business enterprise which are not reinvested into their business into an account which will be placed in a micro-lending program and

not be counted against their public assistance benefits until they accumulate an amount to be determined by the department for the period they are eligible for the TEA program. Under this section, participating low-income entrepreneurs, who are otherwise eligible for TEA, shall not have their benefits reduced and shall not lose any transitional or extended support services available to them as TEA recipients for the life of the escrow account.

(3) Under this section self-employment shall be considered an allowable work activity, if the individual's income, divided by the minimum wage, equals at a minimum twenty (20) hours per week. To receive the self-employment exemption outlined in this section, low-income entrepreneurs shall be enrolled in the TEA program and shall be enrolled in a micro-lending program providing entrepreneurship training, technical assistance, and peer support.

(b) (1) The department shall establish an Individual Development Account (IDA) demonstration project.

(2) In the selected communities for the demonstration project, TEA recipients may deposit up to an amount determined by the department in special savings accounts for career development goals for post-secondary education of themselves or their children, small business development, home ownership purposes, or transportation needs. For the period the recipient is eligible for the TEA program, the Individual Development Account (IDA) shall not be considered when computing the asset limit of the recipient when determining the participant's eligibility for TEA or for food stamps, unless contrary to federal law.

(3) To be eligible, IDA demonstration project participants shall be a member of a group which meets twice a month to make contributions into their Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and receive support, training, and technical assistance to ensure they secure and maintain employment while building their Individual Development Account (IDA), and shall notify the department in advance of establishing such an account.

(4) For those TEA recipients who secure employment while participating in this project, their Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) may begin to be matched immediately. TEA recipients who are not employed shall not receive matching fund donations into their Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). Matching funds may be secured from public and private funds. Public funds utilized to provide such matching funds shall not include state funds.

(c) Federal funds received by the state pursuant to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program shall be available for programs under this section.";

AND

by deleting lines 24 and 25 of page 17 and substituting the following:

"(d) Clear notice of this section shall be provided in the personal responsibility agreement;

(e) This section shall not apply to findings of guilt or pleas of guilty or nolo contendere for offenses occurring on or before July 1, 1997.

(f) In accordance with this section, the State of Arkansas opts out of Section 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996."

AND

by deleting lines 11 through 19 of page 19 and substituting the following:

"20-76-411. Reporting requirements for ~~receivers of Aid to Families with Dependent Children~~ recipients of TEA benefits - Failure to appear for pediatrics screening and have children age-appropriately immunized.

Those citizens receiving benefits under ~~the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program~~ TEA who fail to keep their appointments for pediatric screening at the local health office or who fail to have their child or children age-appropriately immunized shall be required to appear in person at the local health office the following month and each month thereafter to receive their warrants until such time as the appointment is kept or until such time as the child or children are age-appropriately immunized."