

ARKANSAS SENATE
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 996

"AN ACT TO CREATE THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
OVERSIGHT BOARD AND TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 996.

Amend Senate Bill No. 996 as originally introduced:

Add Representative Prater as a cosponsor of the bill

AND

Page 14, delete line 16 and substitute the following:

"(4)(A) Four (4) members to be appointed by the Governor.
(B) One (1) member appointed under subdivision (b)(4)(A)
of this section shall be a current or former recipient of transitional
employment assistance or Aid to Families with Dependent Children;"

AND

Page 15, delete lines 23 and 24 and substitute the following:

"Program services, Arkansas Work Pays Program services, and services offered
in local workforce offices."

AND

Page 18, line 17, delete "Oversight"

AND

Page 28, line 17, delete "and" and substitute "and"

AND

Page 28, delete line 20 and substitute the following:

"efficient to exclude or which must be excluded due to federal or state law;
and

(9) Any investment earmarked for retirement or education, such
as a retirement plan authorized by section 401(k) or section 529 of the
Internal Revenue Code, as it existed on January 1, 2007."



AND

Page 32, delete lines 21 through 25 and substitute the following:

"(c)~~(1)~~ Each state agency and each entity that contracts to provide services for a state agency shall establish recruitment and hiring goals which shall target ten percent (10%) of all jobs requiring a high school diploma or less to be filled with transitional employment assistance or food stamp recipients."

AND

Page 33, delete line 24 and substitute the following:

"(3) The ~~Arkansas Employment Security Department~~ Department of Workforce Security shall establish"

AND

Page 40, delete lines 31 through 36

AND

Page 41, delete lines 1 and 2 and substitute the following:

"(D) Contract with other state agencies or other providers"

AND

Page 44, delete lines 11 through 33 and substitute the following:

"SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 20-76-444(a)-(d), concerning eligibility for cash assistance under the Arkansas Work Pays Program, are amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) There is created the Arkansas Work Pays Program.

(2)(A) The Arkansas Work Pays Program shall be administered by the Department of Workforce Services.

(B) The administration of the Arkansas Work Pays Program shall focus on promoting the transitional employment assistance outcomes specified in § 20-76-105(1).

(3) Eligible applicants to the Arkansas Work Pays Program shall receive one (1) or more of the following:

- (A) Cash assistance;
- (B) Support services;
- (C) Medical assistance; and
- (D) Employment assistance.

(b)(1) Eligibility for assistance under the Arkansas Work Pays Program is limited to applicants or participants who:

- ~~(1)~~(A) Have care and custody of a related minor child;
- ~~(2)~~(B) Reside in the State of Arkansas at the time of application for assistance and during the period of assistance;
- ~~(3)~~(C) Apply for program assistance within six (6) months of leaving the Transitional Employment Assistance Program after at least three (3) months of Transitional Employment Assistance Program assistance;

~~(4)~~(D) Have not received more than twenty-four (24) months of Arkansas Work Pays Program benefits;

~~(5)~~(E) Were engaged:

~~(A)~~(i) In paid work activities for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours per week and met the federal work participation requirement for the past month;

~~(B)~~(ii) In the case of continuing eligibility, in paid work activities for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours per week and met the federal work participation requirement for one (1) of the past three (3) months and for at least three (3) of the past six (6) months;

~~(6)~~(F) Are:

~~(A)~~(i) Citizens of the United States;

~~(B)~~(ii) Qualified aliens lawfully present in the United States before August 22, 1996;

~~(C)~~(iii) Qualified aliens who physically entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, and have been in qualified immigrant status for at least five (5) years; or

~~(D)~~(iv) Aliens to whom benefits under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families must be provided under federal law;

~~(7)~~(G) Have income below one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty level; and

~~(8)~~(H) Sign and comply with a personal responsibility agreement.

(2) Families who leave the Arkansas Work Pays Program due to insufficient work hours may re-enter the Arkansas Work Pays Program once they establish that they were paid work activities for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours per week and met the federal work participation requirement for the past month.

(c)(1) Families participating in the Arkansas Work Pays Program with earnings less than the federal poverty level shall receive monthly cash assistance equal to the maximum monthly Transitional Employment Assistance Program benefit for a family of three (3) with no earned income.

(2) The department may set payment levels for families earning above the federal poverty level by rule to allow for a gradual reduction in payments as earnings rise toward one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty level.

(d)(1) Enrollment in Arkansas Work Pays Program cash assistance ~~is~~ may be limited to three thousand (3,000) participants.

(2) If the Arkansas Transitional Employment Board certifies to the Governor and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and notifies the Legislative Council, the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee, and the House Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee that the action is necessary to avoid the number of families receiving Arkansas Work Pays Program cash assistance going over three thousand (3,000), it may authorize a reduction of the months for which families may receive cash assistance or other supportive services.

(3) The number of months for which families are eligible for cash assistance may be reduced in three-month increments from the statutory provision of twenty-four (24) months.

(4) Families who lose eligibility for cash assistance due to the reduction in the number of months of eligibility shall qualify for financial incentives offered to families leaving the Arkansas Work Pays Program.

(5) The Arkansas Transitional Employment Board shall withdraw its reduction of the months for which families are eligible for cash assistance if the reduction is no longer necessary to maintain enrollments below three thousand (3,000) families."

AND

Page 45, line 25, delete "(b)(1)" and substitute "(b)(1)(A)"

AND

Page 45, delete line 28 and substitute the following:

"Initiative.

(B) The plan shall be updated annually."

AND

Page 48, line 24, add the following:

"SECTION 25. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the state fiscal year begins July 1, 2007; that the state agencies responsible for the programs under this act require time to prepare for the program changes created in this act; that families in need of temporary assistance may not receive the needed assistance if this act does not become effective immediately; and that any delay in the effective date of this act could work irreparable harm on families in need of temporary assistance. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Steele

MGF/CDS - 03-13-2007 11:07

MGF528

Secretary