

Hall of the House of Representatives

88th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2011

Amendment Form

JBC a.m. 3/2/11 (1)

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1122

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES APPROPRIATION FOR
THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 1122

Amend House Bill No. 1122 as engrossed, H2/24/11 (version: 02/24/2011 04:35:17 PM)

Insert a new SECTION immediately following SECTION 25 to read as follows:

“SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TANF STUDY. The Department of Workforce Services shall immediately proceed with issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP), or other appropriate methodology, requesting qualified vendors to submit proposals for the completion of a study to determine the best and most appropriate way to address the financial needs of grandparents raising grandchildren through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant Program. Immediately upon receiving responses from qualified vendors, the Department shall immediately take steps to enter into a contract arrangement with the vendor that submits the lowest and/or most responsible response to the RFP and begin the study. The contract shall be awarded no later than June 30, 2011.

Questions to be addressed in the study shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1) What program model is best for Arkansas?
- 2) Which children will be eligible?
- 3) Should payments be limited to relatives with legal guardianship, unrelated foster parents, or unrelated individuals with close ties to the child or family?
- 4) What impact will these payments have on other public benefits currently received on behalf of these children?
- 5) What agency will determine eligibility?
- 6) What about child support obligations?
- 7) Who will regulate residence compliance?
- 8) Will the program require criminal background checks? If yes, who will pay for it?
- 9) What is the actual financial impact for the TANF program?
- 10) What other funding sources exists for the proposed program?



The Department shall consider the findings of this study in conjunction with the Department's TANF Program Independent Evaluation Study and the evaluation of the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. In addition, the Department shall duly consider the findings from the grandparents raising grandchildren study as they prepare their annual TANF budget.

If the Department of Workforce Services fails to comply with all of the provisions of this Section by December 31, 2011, the Department shall immediately begin providing cash assistance payments to grandparents who are the legal guardians of their grandchildren, and whose incomes are below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These payments shall be paid at the rate of \$100 per month per grandparent household.

And

Delete SECTION 28 in its entirety and substitute the following:

“SECTION 28. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2011 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided; with the exception that SECTION 26 in this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2011, could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs, with the exception that SECTION 26 in this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2011; with the exception that SECTION 26 in this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval.”

And

Appropriately renumber subsequent SECTION numbers

The Amendment was read _____
By: Joint Budget Committee
By: Senator Salmon
LEB/LEB - 03/02/11 10:58
LEB034

Chief Clerk