

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 911

By: Senator L. Chesterfield
By: Representative Murdock

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
CURRENT RESOURCE OR ASSET LIMITS FOR THE
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(SNAP) AND THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

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

(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.