

SENATE BILL 445

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1999 Regular Session
9r1757
CF 9r1195

By: **Senator Lawlah**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 29, 1999

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Investment Program - Earned Income Disregard**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount of earned income that will be disregarded for
4 the purposes of determining the amount of assistance an individual may receive
5 under the Family Investment Program; prohibiting the increase in the earned
6 income disregard from increasing certain expenditures; requiring the
7 Department of Human Resources to ensure that certain time limits on the
8 receipt of cash assistance do not apply under certain circumstances; requiring
9 the Secretary of Human Resources to monitor certain federal legislative and
10 regulatory actions and to make certain certifications under certain
11 circumstances; providing for the termination of this Act under certain
12 circumstances; and generally relating to the Family Investment Program.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
15 Section 49(d)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1998 Replacement Volume)

18 ~~BY adding to~~
19 ~~Article 88A - Department of Human Resources~~
20 ~~Section 49(d)~~
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
22 ~~(1998 Replacement Volume)~~

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article 88A - Department of Human Resources**

2 49.

3 ~~{(d) (1) For applicants to the Family Investment Program, the amount of~~
4 ~~assistance shall be computed by counting no more than 4 weeks of earned income in~~
5 ~~any month and disregarding 20% of that earned income.~~

6 (2) For eligible Family Investment Program recipients who obtain
7 unsubsidized employment, the amount of assistance shall be computed by counting no
8 more than 4 weeks of earned income in any month and disregarding ~~26%~~ 35% of that
9 earned income.}

10 ~~(D) THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE SHALL BE COMPUTED BY COUNTING NO~~
11 ~~MORE THAN 4 WEEKS OF EARNED INCOME IN ANY MONTH AND DISREGARDING THE~~
12 ~~FIRST \$170 OF THE TOTAL OF THAT EARNED INCOME PLUS 60% OF THE REMAINDER~~
13 ~~OF THAT EARNED INCOME.~~

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the increase in the
15 earned income disregard provided by this Act may not increase State General Fund
16 expenditures or expenditures from the reserve for future welfare costs in the
17 Dedicated Purpose Fund.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to federal law
19 and regulation, the Department of Human Resources shall ensure that, if a Family
20 Investment Program recipient's eligibility for cash assistance is extended as a result
21 of this Act, the extended period of cash assistance is not subject to federal and State
22 time limits on the receipt of cash assistance.

23 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Human
24 Resources shall monitor federal legislative and regulatory action under the federal
25 Social Security Act and, if on or after July 1, 1999, amendments to the federal Social
26 Security Act or regulations adopted under the federal Social Security Act subject the
27 extended period of cash assistance resulting from this Act to federal time limits, the
28 Secretary of Human Resources shall certify this fact to the Joint Committee on
29 Welfare Reform of the General Assembly. On the date of certification, this Act shall be
30 null and void and of no force and effect. The Secretary of Human Resources shall send
31 a copy of the certification to the Department of Legislative Services.

32 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if the Secretary of
33 Human Resources determines that federal funding under the Temporary Assistance
34 to Needy Families Block Grant has declined to the extent that an increase in State
35 funds is necessary to fund this Act, the Secretary of Human Resources shall certify
36 this fact to the Joint Committee on Welfare Reform of the General Assembly. On the
37 date of the certification, this Act shall be null and void and of no force and effect. The
38 Secretary of Human Resources shall send a copy of the certification to the
39 Department of Legislative Services.

40 SECTION 2. 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
41 effect July 1, 1999.

