

SENATE BILL 2257

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71,
relative to participation in certain public assistance
programs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

(a) To the full extent permitted by federal law, as a condition of participation and continuing eligibility for food assistance under this part, an adult recipient in any household receiving food assistance shall comply with and periodically submit proof of continuing compliance with at least one (1) of the following:

(1) The recipient has been employed for at least twenty (20) hours of work each week;

(2) The recipient engaged in at least twenty-four (24) hours of community service each month;

(3) The recipient has participated at an employment center in classes to improve skills or in actively seeking employment for at least twenty (20) hours each week; or

(4) The recipient is enrolled as a full-time student in an institution of higher education, defined in § 50-7-207, or a technical school, and is making progress toward a degree.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to an adult recipient who is a single parent with custody of a child under the age of twelve (12) or to an adult recipient who is determined

to not be an able-bodied person capable of compliance with subsection (a) in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner of human services.

(c) A recipient who fails to comply with subsection (a) without being exempt under subsection (b) is not eligible to continue to participate in the food assistance program and that recipient may be terminated from the program by the department after an opportunity for a hearing in a manner and for a duration as determined by rule.

(d) The commissioner of human services is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. For purposes of rulemaking, this act shall take effect on becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.