

The House Committee on Public Health offers the following substitute to HB 565:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 9 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to temporary assistance for needy families, so as to increase access to benefits; to  
3 increase the lifetime maximum for benefits; to provide that income and resources may be  
4 considered to determine eligibility; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 9 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 temporary assistance for needy families, is amended in Code Section 49-4-182, relating to  
10 the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program created, by revising subsection (b)  
11 as follows:

12 "(b) Assistance shall be provided in accordance with the state plan and any future  
13 amendments thereto; provided that such monthly benefit assistance shall be increased to  
14 30 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Cash assistance to a recipient who is not a  
15 minor child and who is a head of a household or married to the head of a household shall

16 be limited to a lifetime maximum of ~~48~~ 60 months, whether or not consecutive, beginning  
17 ~~January 1, 1997~~ July 1, 2024."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Said article is further amended in Code Section 49-4-183, relating to administration of article  
20 by department, promulgation of rules and regulations by board, and duties of department, by  
21 revising subsection (b) as follows:

22 "(b) The board shall ensure that such rules and regulations provide for:

23 (1) Methods of administration necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the  
24 state plan for implementation of this article;

25 (2) Reasonable standards for determining eligibility and the extent of assistance available  
26 for recipients;

27 (3) Consideration of the income and resources of an applicant for assistance in  
28 determining eligibility; the resources of an applicant for assistance shall not exceed  
29 \$5,000.00; provided, however, that the equity value of one vehicle per family shall not  
30 be counted as a resource of the family if the vehicle is used for work, training, or  
31 education preparatory to employment or job search; provided, further, that a \$4,650.00  
32 exclusion of the equity value of one additional vehicle is allowed if the family is not  
33 using such vehicle for work, training, or education preparatory to employment or job  
34 search;

35 (4) Personal responsibility obligations and work activity requirements consistent with  
36 Part A of Title IV of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, and the state plan,  
37 provided that programs included in the personal responsibility obligations established by  
38 the board shall include counseling on abstinence until marriage;

39 (5) Criteria which make an applicant ineligible to receive benefits under the Georgia  
40 TANF Program, including but not limited to those specified in Code Section 49-4-184;

- 41 (6) Specific conduct which would authorize the reduction or termination of assistance  
42 to a recipient, including but not limited to that specified in Code Section 49-4-185;
- 43 (7) Standards whereby certain obligations, requirements, and criteria will be waived for  
44 specific applicants or recipients based on hardship;
- 45 (8) An administrative hearing process with hearings to be conducted by the Office of  
46 State Administrative Hearings in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia  
47 Administrative Procedure Act,' and subsection (b) of Code Section 49-4-13;
- 48 (9) Safeguards which restrict the use and disclosure of information concerning applicants  
49 for and recipients of assistance under this article and in accordance with Code  
50 Section 49-4-14 and Part A of Title IV of the federal Social Security Act, as amended;
- 51 (10) Immunizations for specified diseases for preschool age children as a condition of  
52 assistance being provided for such children, and the schedule of and standards for  
53 administering such immunizations, including the presentation of a certificate of  
54 immunization, unless:
- 55 (A) There is appropriate evidence from the local health department or a physician that  
56 an immunization sequence has been started and can be completed within a period of up  
57 to 180 days, in which case a waiver of the immunization requirement for up to 180 days  
58 shall be granted;
- 59 (B) After examination by the local board of health or a physician, any preschool age  
60 child is found to have a physical disability which may make vaccination undesirable,  
61 in which case a certificate to that effect issued by the local board of health or the  
62 physician may be accepted in lieu of a certificate of immunization and shall exempt the  
63 child from obtaining a certificate of immunization until the disability is relieved;
- 64 (C) The parent or legal guardian furnishes an affidavit swearing or affirming that the  
65 immunization conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or legal guardian; or
- 66 (D) The implementation of such an immunization requirement violates any federal law  
67 or regulations or would result in the loss of any federal funds to this state; and

68 (11) The establishment and maintenance of individual development accounts. The funds  
69 in such accounts may be used for postsecondary educational expenses, the purchase of  
70 a first home, or business capitalization. The funds in such accounts shall not be  
71 considered in determining eligibility for cash assistance pursuant to 42 U.S.C.  
72 Section 604(h)."

73 **SECTION 3.**

74 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.