

SENATE BILL 623

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 1 and Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 3, relative to eligibility for certain public assistance programs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-308, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b)

(1) The decision of the state of Tennessee, authorized by 21 U.S.C. § 862a(d), to opt out of the eligibility prohibitions contained in 21 U.S.C. § 862a(a) for participation in, and receiving benefits from, the food stamp program by anyone convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance is rescinded.

(2) Effective July 1, 2015, eligibility for participation in the food stamp program and receipt of program benefits for anyone convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance shall be governed by 21 U.S.C. § 862a(a).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-104, is amended by deleting subdivision (k)(2) and substituting instead the following:

(2)

(A) The decision of the state of Tennessee, authorized by 21 U.S.C. § 862a(d) and exercised effective June 30, 2011, to opt out of the eligibility prohibitions contained in 21 U. S. C. § 862a(a) for participation in, and receiving

benefits from, the families first program by anyone convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance is rescinded.

(B) Effective July 1, 2015, eligibility for participation in the families first program and receipt of families first program benefits for anyone convicted of a felony involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance shall be governed by 21 U.S.C. § 862a(a).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.