

(b) The Secretary shall establish BY REGULATION: [a representative payee or a voucher program of benefits for the minor children in a family that includes an adult who has received more than 60 months of temporary cash assistance.]

(1) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES MAY EXEMPT FAMILIES FROM THE LIMITATIONS OF SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION FOR REASONS OF HARDSHIP; AND

(2) A SEPARATE STATE PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THAT:

(I) IS FUNDED ENTIRELY FROM STATE GENERAL FUNDS THAT MAY BE COUNTED TOWARD ANY FEDERAL MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENT;

(II) SHALL PAY TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WHO ARE EXEMPTED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BUT WHO CANNOT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS DUE TO FEDERAL LIMITATIONS; AND

(III) IS SUBJECT TO ALL FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS IN THIS TITLE.

(c) The provisions of this section are subject to federal law and regulation.

53A.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the directors of local departments of social services, shall establish a job skills enhancement pilot program in at least three counties, one of which shall be located in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, or the Eastern Shore, to provide newly employed current and former FIP recipients with training in order for them to:

- (1) Enhance their existing job-related skills;
- (2) Gain additional or alternative job skills; or
- (3) Learn interpersonal, communication, and other related skills.

(b) The job skills enhancement program shall target unskilled and semiskilled former and current FIP recipients who are newly employed in entry-level positions that have limited potential for advancement beyond entry level.

(c) (1) Participation in the job skills enhancement program shall be voluntary.

(2) Individuals participating in the job skills enhancement program shall sign a training agreement with the local department.

(d) To be eligible to participate in the job skills enhancement program, an individual shall: