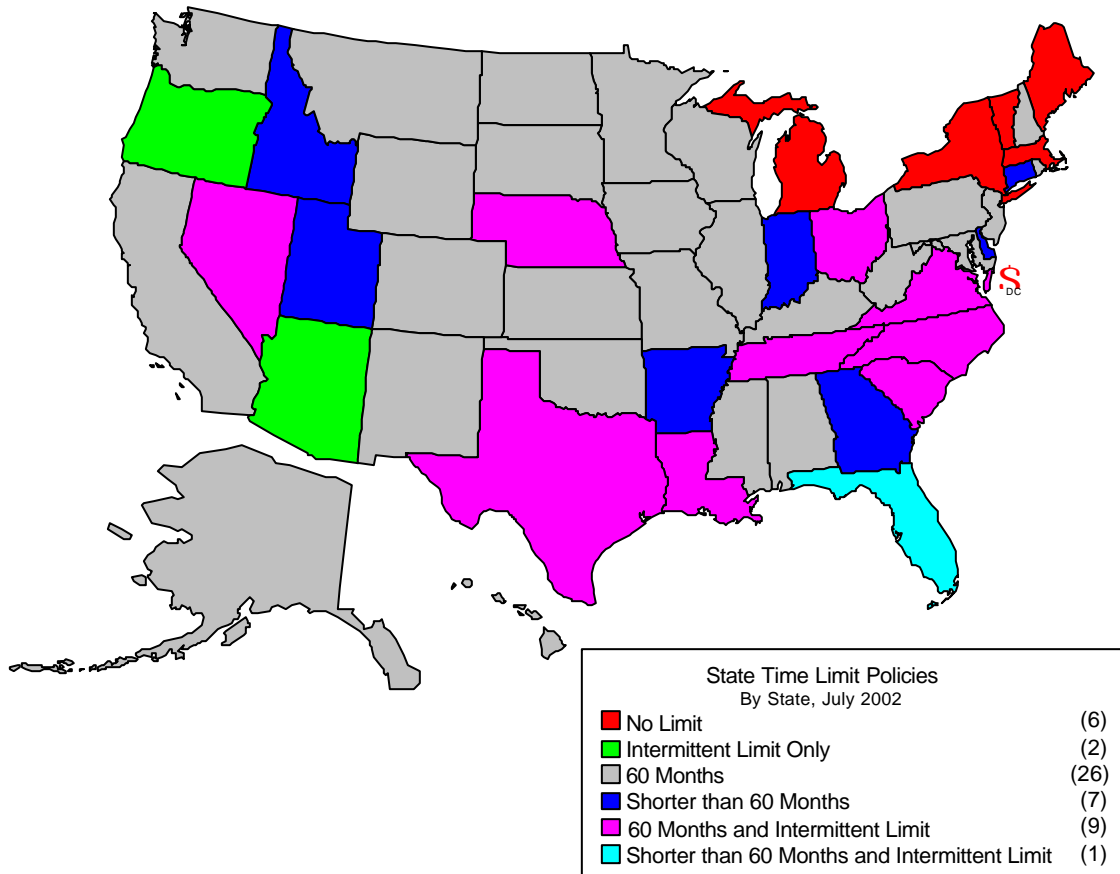




Fast Facts

State Time Limit Policies



TANF establishes a maximum 60-month lifetime time limit on receipt of cash assistance. “Child-only” cases, where the only TANF recipients are children, are not subject to time limits. States also may exempt up to 20 percent of their caseload from the federal time limit.

Twenty-six states adopted the 60-month time limit. Seven states adopted shorter lifetime time limits. Six states use state funds to continue cash assistance payments after recipients hit the 60-month federal lifetime limit.

Some states interrupt or limit benefits before the recipient reaches their lifetime limit. Some states provide benefits for a limited number of months within a given period of time. Others consider a family ineligible for benefits for a number of months after the family has received benefits for a specified number of months.

As of July 2002, 9 states impose a state limit in addition to the 60-month time limit, and 1 state imposes an interim time limit and a state lifetime time limit of less than 60 months.

Source: [The Welfare Rules Database](#), 2002.

The Welfare Rules Database (WRD) provides a longitudinal account of the changes in welfare rules in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The WRD organizes the detailed information on welfare rules across states, time, and geographic areas within states as well as across different types of assistance units. Caseworker manuals and state regulations provide the data from 1997 to the present, while AFDC State Plans and Waiver Terms and Conditions provide the data for years prior to 1997.