

By: Senator(s) Scoper

To: Judiciary; Public  
Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2899

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-9-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT IN A PATERNITY ACTION AGAINST A DEFENDANT UNDER THE  
3 AGE OF 21, THE COURT ORDER SHALL SPECIFY A DATE THAT SUPPORT  
4 PAYMENTS SHALL BEGIN BASED ON AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN MINIMUM  
5 WAGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 SECTION 1. Section 93-9-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 93-9-29. (1) If the finding be against the defendant, the  
10 court shall make an order of filiation, declaring paternity and  
11 for the support and education of the child.

12 (2) The order of filiation shall specify the sum to be paid  
13 weekly or otherwise. In addition to providing for the support and  
14 education, the order shall also provide for the funeral expenses  
15 if the child has died; for the support of the child prior to the  
16 making of the order of filiation; and such other expenses as the  
17 court may deem proper. In the event the defendant has health  
18 insurance available to him through an employer or organization  
19 that may extend benefits to the dependents of such defendant, the  
20 order of filiation may require the defendant to exercise the  
21 option of additional coverage in favor of the child he is legally  
22 responsible to support.

23 (3) The court may require the payment to be made to the  
24 mother, or to some person or corporation to be designated by the  
25 court as trustee, but if the child is or is likely to become a  
26 public charge on a county or the state, the public welfare agent  
27 of that county shall be made the trustee. The payment shall be

28 directed to be made to a trustee if the mother does not reside  
29 within the jurisdiction of the court. The trustee shall report to  
30 the court annually, or oftener as directed by the court, the  
31 amounts received and paid over.

32 (4) In the event the finding is against a defendant under  
33 the age of twenty-one (21) years, the order of filiation shall  
34 specify a date certain that the defendant shall be required to  
35 begin making such support payments to be based on not less than a  
36 minimum wage under federal law. Said date shall not be later than  
37 the date on which the defendant reaches twenty-one (21) years of  
38 age.

39 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
40 and after July 1, 1999.