Pending AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

Senate Bill NO. 2310

By Representative(s) Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- 21 SECTION 1. Section 43-15-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 22 amended as follows:
- 43-15-13. (1) For purposes of this section, "children"
- 24 means persons found within the state who are under the age of
- 25 twenty-one (21) years, and who were placed in the custody of the
- 26 Department of Human Services by the youth court of the appropriate
- 27 county.
- 28 (2) The Department of Human Services shall establish a
- 29 foster care placement program for children whose custody lies with
- 30 the department, with the following objectives:
- 31 (a) Protecting and promoting the health, safety and
- 32 welfare of children;
- 33 (b) Preventing the unnecessary separation of children
- 34 from their families by identifying family problems, assisting
- 35 families in resolving their problems and preventing the breakup of
- 36 the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and
- 37 possible when the child can be cared for at home without
- 38 endangering the child's health and safety;
- 39 (c) Remedying or assisting in the solution of problems
- 40 which may result in the neglect, abuse, exploitation or
- 41 delinquency of children;

- 42 (d) Restoring to their families children who have been
- 43 removed, by the provision of services to the child and the
- 44 families when the child can be cared for at home without
- 45 endangering the child's health and safety;
- 46 (e) Placing children in suitable adoptive homes
- 47 approved by a licensed adoption agency or licensed social worker,
- 48 in cases where restoration to the biological family is not safe,
- 49 possible or appropriate;
- (f) Assuring safe and adequate care of children away
- 51 from their homes, in cases where the child cannot be returned home
- 52 or cannot be placed for adoption. At the time of placement, the
- 53 department shall implement concurrent planning, as described in
- 54 subsection (8) of this section, so that permanency may occur at
- 55 the earliest opportunity. Consideration of possible failure or
- 56 delay of reunification should be given, to the end that the
- 57 placement made is the best available placement to provide
- 58 permanency for the child; and
- (g) Providing a social worker or social work team for a
- 60 family and child throughout the implementation of their permanent
- 61 living arrangement plan. Wherever feasible, the same social
- 62 worker or social work team shall remain on the case until the
- 63 child is no longer under the jurisdiction of the youth court.
- 64 (3) The State Department of Human Services shall administer
- 65 a system of individualized plans and reviews once every six (6)
- 66 months for each child under its custody within the State of
- 67 Mississippi, each child who has been adjudged a neglected,
- 68 abandoned or abused child and whose custody was changed by court
- 69 order as a result of such adjudication, and each public or private
- 70 facility licensed by the department. The State Department of
- 71 <u>Human Services administrative</u> review shall be completed on each
- 72 child within the first three (3) months and <u>a Foster Care Review</u>
- 73 once every six (6) months after the child's initial forty-eight

| 74 | (48) hours shelter hearing. Such system shall be for the purpose |
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| 75 | of enhancing potential family life for the child by the |
| 76 | development of individual plans to return the child to its natural |
| 77 | parent or parents, or to refer the child to the appropriate court |
| 78 | for termination of parental rights and placement in a permanent |
| 79 | relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive home. The goal |
| 80 | of the State Department of Human Services shall be to return the |
| 81 | child to its natural parent(s) or refer the child to the |
| 82 | appropriate court for termination of parental rights and placement |
| 83 | in a permanent relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive |
| 84 | home within the time periods specified in this subsection or in |
| 85 | subsection (4) of this section. In furthering this goal, the |
| 86 | department shall establish policy and procedures designed to |
| 87 | appropriately place children in permanent homes, such policy to |
| 88 | include a system of reviews for all children in foster care, as |
| 89 | follows: Foster care counselors in the department shall make all |
| 90 | possible contact with the child's natural parent(s) and any |
| 91 | interested relative for the first two (2) months following the |
| 92 | child's entry into the foster care system. For any child who was |
| 93 | in foster care before July 1, 1998, and has been in foster care |
| 94 | for fifteen (15) of the last twenty-two (22) months regardless of |
| 95 | whether the foster care was continuous for all of those twenty-two |
| 96 | (22) months, the department shall file a petition to terminate the |
| 97 | parental rights of the child's parents. The time period starts to |
| 98 | run from the date the court makes a finding of abuse and/or |
| 99 | neglect or sixty (60) days from when the child was removed from |
| 100 | his or her home, whichever is earlier. The department can choose |
| 101 | not to file a termination of parental rights petition if the |
| 102 | <pre>following apply:</pre> |
| 103 | (a) The child is being cared for by a relative; and/or |
| 104 | (b) The department has documented compelling and |

105 extraordinary reasons why termination of parental rights would not

106 be in the best interests of the child.

107 (4) In the case of any child who is placed in foster care on or after July 1, 1998, except in cases of aggravated circumstances 108 109 prescribed in Section 43-21-603(7)(c) or (d), the child's natural parent(s) will have a reasonable time to be determined by the 110 111 court, which shall not exceed a six-month period of time, in which 112 to meet the service agreement with the department for the benefit of the child unless the department has documented extraordinary 113 and compelling reasons for extending the time period in the best 114 115 interest of the child. If this agreement has not been 116 satisfactorily met, simultaneously the child will be referred to the appropriate court for termination of parental rights and 117 placement in a permanent relative's home, adoptive home or a 118 foster/adoptive home * * *. For children under the age of three 119 (3) years, termination of parental rights shall be initiated 120 within six (6) months, unless the department has documented 121 compelling and extraordinary circumstances, and placement in a 122 123 permanent relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive home within two (2) months. For children who have been abandoned 124 125 pursuant to the provisions of Section 97-5-1, termination of 126 parental rights shall be initiated within thirty (30) days and placement in an adoptive home shall be initiated without necessity 127 for placement in a foster home. The department need not initiate 128 129 termination of parental rights proceedings where the child has 130 been placed in durable legal custody or long-term or formalized foster care by a court of competent jurisdiction. 131 132 (5) The Foster Care Review once every six (6) months shall be conducted by personnel within the State Department of Human 133 Services or by a designee or designees of the department and may 134 include others appointed by the department, and the review shall 135 include at a minimum an evaluation of the child based on the 136 137 following:

- 138 (a) The extent of the care and support provided by the
- 139 parents or parent, while the child is in temporary custody;
- 140 (b) The extent of communication with the child by
- 141 parents, parent or guardian;
- 142 (c) The degree of compliance by the agency and the
- 143 parents with the social service plan established;
- 144 (d) The methods of achieving the goal and the plan
- 145 establishing a permanent home for the child;
- (e) Social services offered and/or utilized to
- 147 facilitate plans for establishing a permanent home for the child;
- 148 and
- 149 (f) Relevant testimony and recommendations from the
- 150 foster parent of the child, the grandparents of the child, the
- 151 guardian ad litem of the child, representatives of any private
- 152 care agency which has cared for the child, the social worker
- 153 assigned to the case, and any other relevant testimony pertaining
- 154 to the case.
- Each child's review plan once every six (6) months shall be
- 156 filed with the court which awarded custody and shall be made
- 157 available to natural parents or foster parents upon approval of
- 158 the court. The court shall make a finding as to the degree of
- 159 compliance by the agency and the parent(s) with the child's social
- 160 service plan. The court also shall find that the child's health
- 161 and safety are the paramount concern. In the interest of the
- 162 child, the court shall, where appropriate, initiate proceedings on
- 163 its own motion. The State Department of Human Services shall
- 164 report to the Legislature as to the number of such children, the
- 165 findings of the foster care review board and relevant statistical
- 166 information in foster care in a semi-annual report to the
- 167 Legislature to be submitted to the Joint Oversight Committee of
- 168 the Department of Human Services. The report shall not refer to
- 169 the specific name of any child in foster care.

170 (6) The State Department of Human Services, with the 171 cooperation and assistance of the State Department of Health, 172 shall develop and implement a training program for foster care 173 parents to indoctrinate them as to their proper responsibilities upon a child's entry into their foster care. The program shall 174 175 provide a minimum of twelve (12) clock hours of training. foster care training program shall be satisfactorily completed by 176 such foster care parents prior to, or within ninety (90) days 177 178 after child placement with such parent. Record of such foster 179 care parent's training program participation shall be filed with 180 the court as part of a foster care child's review plan once every six (6) months. 181

(7) When the Department of Human Services is considering 182 placement of a child in a foster home and when the department 183 deems it to be in the best interest of the child, the department 184 185 shall give first priority to placing the child in the home of one 186 (1) of the child's relatives within the third degree, as computed 187 by the civil law rule. In placing the child in a relative's home, the department may waive any rule, regulation or policy applicable 188 189 to placement in foster care that would otherwise require the child to have a separate bed or bedroom or have a bedroom of a certain 190 191 size, if placing the child in a relative's home would be in the 192 best interest of the child and such requirements cannot be met in 193 the relative's home.

194 The Legislature recognizes that the best interests of the child require that the child be placed in the most permanent 195 196 living arrangement as soon as is practicably possible. To achieve this goal, the Department of Human Services is directed to conduct 197 198 concurrent planning so that a permanent living arrangement may 199 occur at the earliest opportunity. Permanent living arrangements 200 may include prevention of placement of a child outside the home of 201 the family when the child can be cared for at home without

- 202 endangering the child's health or safety; reunification with the
- 203 family, when safe and appropriate, if temporary placement is
- 204 necessary; or movement of the child toward the most permanent
- 205 living arrangement and permanent legal status. When a child is
- 206 placed in foster care or relative care, the department shall first
- 207 ensure and document that reasonable efforts were made to prevent
- 208 or eliminate the need to remove the child from the child's home.
- 209 The department's first priority shall be to make reasonable
- 210 efforts to reunify the family when temporary placement of the
- 211 child occurs or shall request a finding from the court that
- 212 reasonable efforts are not appropriate or have been unsuccessful.
- 213 A decision to place a child in foster care or relative care shall
- 214 be made with consideration of the child's health, safety and best
- 215 interests. At the time of placement, consideration should also be
- 216 given so that if reunification fails or is delayed, the placement
- 217 made is the best available placement to provide a permanent living
- 218 arrangement for the child. The department shall adopt rules
- 219 addressing concurrent planning for reunification and a permanent
- 220 living arrangement. The department shall consider the following
- 221 factors when determining appropriateness of concurrent planning:
- 222 (a) The likelihood of prompt reunification;
- 223 (b) The past history of the family;
- 224 (c) The barriers to reunification being addressed by
- 225 the family;
- 226 (d) The level of cooperation of the family;
- (e) The foster parents' willingness to work with the
- 228 family to reunite;
- 229 (f) The willingness and ability of the foster family or
- 230 relative placement to provide an adoptive home or long-term
- 231 placement;
- 232 (g) The age of the child; and
- 233 (h) Placement of siblings.

234 (9) If the department has placed a child in foster care or 235 relative care pursuant to a court order, the department may not 236 change the child's placement unless the department specifically 237 documents to the court that the current placement is unsafe or 238 unsuitable or that another placement is in the child's best 239 interests * * * unless the new placement is in an adoptive home or other permanent placement. * * * Except in emergency 240 circumstances as determined by the department or where the court 241 242 orders placement of the child pursuant to Section 43-21-303, the 243 foster parents, grandparents or other relatives of the child shall be given an opportunity to contest the specific reasons documented 244 245 by the department at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to any 246 such departure, and the court may conduct a review of such 247 placement unless the new placement is in an adoptive home or other permanent placement. When a child is returned to foster care or 248 249 relative care, the former foster parents or relative placement 250 shall be given the prior right of return placement in order to eliminate additional trauma to the child. 251 252 (10) The Department of Human Services shall provide the foster parents, grandparents or other relatives with at least a 253 seventy-two-hour notice of departure for any child placed in their 254 foster care or relative care, except in emergency circumstances as 255 256 determined by the department or where the court orders placement 257 of the child pursuant to Section 43-21-303. The parent/legal guardian, grandparents of the child, guardian ad litem and the 258 259 court exercising jurisdiction shall be notified in writing when 260 the child leaves foster care or relative care placement, 261 regardless of whether the child's departure was planned or 262 unplanned. The only exceptions to giving a written notice to the 263 parent(s) are when a parent has voluntarily released the child for adoption or the parent's legal rights to the child have been 264 265 terminated through the appropriate court with jurisdiction.

- 266 (11) The Department of Human Services shall extend the
- 267 following rights to foster care parents:
- 268 (a) A clear understanding of their role as foster
- 269 parents and the roles of the birth parent(s) and the placement
- 270 agency in respect to the child in care;
- (b) Respect, consideration, trust and value as a family
- 272 who is making an important contribution to the agency's
- 273 objectives;
- 274 (c) Involvement in all the agency's crucial decisions
- 275 regarding the foster child as team members who have pertinent
- 276 information based on their day-to-day knowledge of the child in
- 277 care;
- 278 (d) Support from the social worker in efforts to do a
- 279 better day-to-day job in caring for the child and in working to
- 280 achieve the agency's objectives for the child and the birth family
- 281 through provision of:
- 282 (i) Pertinent information about the child and the
- 283 birth family.
- 284 (ii) Help in using appropriate resources to meet
- 285 the child's needs.
- 286 (iii) Direct interviews between the social worker
- 287 and the child, previously discussed and understood by the foster
- 288 parents.
- 289 (e) The opportunity to develop confidence in making
- 290 day-to-day decisions in regard to the child;
- 291 (f) The opportunity to learn and grow in their vocation
- 292 through planned foster parent education;
- 293 (g) The opportunity to be heard regarding agency
- 294 practices that they may question; and
- 295 (h) Reimbursement for costs of the foster child's care
- 296 in the form of a board payment based on the age of the foster
- 297 child as prescribed in Section 43-15-17.

- 298 (12) The Department of Human Services shall require the
- 299 following responsibilities from participating foster parents:
- 300 (a) Understanding the department's function in regard
- 301 to the foster care program and related social service programs;
- 302 (b) Sharing with the department any information which
- 303 may contribute to the care of foster children;
- 304 (c) Functioning within the established goals and
- 305 objectives to improve the general welfare of the foster child;
- 306 (d) Recognizing the problems in foster home placement
- 307 that will require professional advice and assistance and that such
- 308 help should be utilized to its full potential;
- 309 (e) Recognizing that the foster family will be one of
- 310 the primary resources for preparing a child for any future plans
- 311 that are made, including return to birth parent(s), termination of
- 312 parental rights or reinstitutionalization;
- 313 (f) Expressing their view of agency practices which
- 314 relate to the foster child with the appropriate staff member;
- 315 (g) Understanding that all information shared with the
- 316 foster parents about the child and his/her birth parent(s) must be
- 317 held in the strictest of confidence;
- 318 (h) Cooperating with any plan to reunite the foster
- 319 child with his birth family and work with the birth family to
- 320 achieve this goal; and
- 321 (i) Attending dispositional review hearings and
- 322 termination of parental rights hearings conducted by a court of
- 323 competent jurisdiction, or providing their recommendations to the
- 324 court in writing.
- 325 SECTION 2. Section 43-21-603, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 326 amended as follows:
- 327 43-21-603. (1) At the beginning of each disposition
- 328 hearing, the judge shall inform the parties of the purpose of the
- 329 hearing.

- 330 (2) All testimony shall be under oath unless waived by all
- 331 parties and may be in narrative form. The court may consider any
- 332 evidence which is material and relevant to the disposition of the
- 333 cause, including hearsay and opinion evidence. At the conclusion
- 334 of the evidence, the youth court shall give the parties an
- 335 opportunity to present oral argument.
- 336 (3) If the child has been adjudicated a delinquent child,
- 337 prior to entering a disposition order, the youth court should
- 338 consider, among others, the following relevant factors:
- 339 (a) The nature of the offense;
- 340 (b) The manner in which the offense was committed;
- 341 (c) The nature and number of a child's prior
- 342 adjudicated offenses; and
- 343 (d) The child's need for care and assistance.
- 344 (4) If the child has been adjudicated a child in need of
- 345 supervision, prior to entering a disposition order, the youth
- 346 court should consider, among others, the following relevant
- 347 factors:
- 348 (a) The nature and history of the child's conduct;
- 349 (b) The family and home situation; and
- 350 (c) The child's need of care and assistance.
- 351 (5) If the child has been adjudicated a neglected child or
- 352 an abused child, prior to entering a disposition order, the youth
- 353 court shall consider, among others, the following relevant
- 354 factors:
- 355 (a) The child's physical and mental conditions;
- 356 (b) The child's need of assistance;
- 357 (c) The manner in which the parent, guardian or
- 358 custodian participated in, tolerated or condoned the abuse,
- 359 neglect or abandonment of the child;
- 360 (d) The ability of a child's parent, guardian or
- 361 custodian to provide proper supervision and care of a child; and

- 362 (e) Relevant testimony and recommendations, where
- 363 available, from the foster parent of the child, the grandparents
- 364 of the child, the guardian ad litem of the child, representatives
- 365 of any private care agency which has cared for the child, the
- 366 social worker assigned to the case, and any other relevant
- 367 testimony pertaining to the case.
- 368 (6) After consideration of all the evidence and the relevant
- 369 factors, the youth court shall enter a disposition order which
- 370 shall not recite any of the facts or circumstances upon which such
- 371 disposition is based, nor shall it recite that a child has been
- 372 found guilty; but it shall recite that a child is found to be a
- 373 delinquent child, a child in need of supervision, a neglected
- 374 child or an abused child.
- 375 (7) In the event that the youth court orders that the
- 376 custody or supervision of a child who has been adjudicated abused
- 377 or neglected be placed with the Department of Human Services or
- 378 any other person or public or private agency, other than the
- 379 child's parent, guardian or custodian, the youth court shall find
- 380 and the disposition order shall recite that:
- 381 (a) (i) Reasonable efforts have been made to maintain
- 382 the child within his own home, but that the circumstances warrant
- 383 his removal and there is no reasonable alternative to custody; or
- 384 (ii) The circumstances are of such an emergency
- 385 nature that no reasonable efforts have been made to maintain the
- 386 child within his own home, and that there is no reasonable
- 387 alternative to custody; and
- 388 (b) That the effect of the continuation of the child's
- 389 residence within his own home would be contrary to the welfare of
- 390 the child and that the placement of the child in foster care is in
- 391 the best interests of the child; or
- 392 (c) Reasonable efforts to maintain the child within his
- 393 home shall not be required if the court determines that:

- 394 (i) The parent has subjected the child to
- 395 aggravated circumstances including, but not limited to,
- 396 abandonment, torture, chronic abuse and sexual abuse; or
- 397 (ii) The parent has been convicted of murder of
- 398 another child of such parent, voluntary manslaughter of another
- 399 child of such parent, aided or abetted, attempted, conspired or
- 400 solicited to commit such murder or voluntary manslaughter, or a
- 401 felony assault that results in the serious bodily injury to the
- 402 surviving child or another child of such parent; or
- 403 <u>(iii)</u> The parental rights of the parent to a
- 404 sibling have been terminated involuntarily; and
- 405 (iv) That the effect of the continuation of the
- 406 child's residence within his own home would be contrary to the
- 407 welfare of the child and that placement of the child in foster
- 408 care is in the best interests of the child. * * *
- 409 Once the reasonable efforts requirement is bypassed, the
- 410 court shall have a permanency hearing pursuant to Section
- 411 43-21-613 within thirty (30) days of such finding.
- 412 (8) Upon a written motion by a party, the youth court shall
- 413 make written findings of fact and conclusions of law upon which it
- 414 relies for the disposition order.
- SECTION 3. Section 43-21-609, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 416 amended as follows:
- 417 43-21-609. In neglect and abuse cases, the disposition order
- 418 may include any of the following alternatives, giving precedence
- 419 in the following sequence:
- 420 (a) Release the child without further action;
- 421 (b) Place the child in the custody of his parents, a
- 422 relative or other person subject to any conditions and limitations
- 423 as the court may prescribe. If the court finds that temporary
- 424 relative placement, adoption or foster care placement is
- 425 inappropriate, unavailable or otherwise not in the best interest

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426 of the child, durable legal custody may be granted by the court to
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- 427 any person subject to any limitations and conditions the court may
- 428 prescribe; such durable legal custody will not take effect unless
- 429 the child or children have been in the physical custody of the
- 430 proposed durable custodians for at least one (1) year under the
- 431 supervision of the Department of Human Services. The requirements
- 432 of Section 43-21-613 as to disposition review hearings does not
- 433 apply to those matters in which the court has granted durable
- 434 legal custody. In such cases, the Department of Human Services
- 435 shall be released from any oversight or monitoring
- 436 responsibilities;
- 437 (c) Order terms of treatment calculated to assist the
- 438 child and the child's parent, guardian or custodian which are
- 439 within the ability of the parent, guardian or custodian to
- 440 perform;
- (d) Order youth court personnel, the Department of
- 442 Human Services or child care agencies to assist the child and the
- 443 child's parent, guardian or custodian to secure social or medical
- 444 services to provide proper supervision and care of the child;
- (e) Give legal custody of the child to any of the
- 446 following but in no event to any state training school:
- 447 (i) The Department of Human Services for
- 448 appropriate placement; or
- 449 (ii) Any private or public organization,
- 450 preferably community-based, able to assume the education, care and
- 451 maintenance of the child, which has been found suitable by the
- 452 court. Prior to assigning the custody of any child to any private
- 453 institution or agency, the youth court through its designee shall
- 454 first inspect the physical facilities to determine that they
- 455 provide a reasonable standard of health and safety for the child.
- 456 SECTION 4. Section 43-21-613, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 457 amended as follows:

458 43-21-613. (1) If the youth court finds, after a hearing 459 which complies with the sections governing adjudicatory hearings, 460 that the terms of a delinquency or child in need of supervision 461 disposition order, probation or parole have been violated, the youth court may, in its discretion, revoke the original 462 463 disposition and make any disposition which it could have originally ordered. The hearing shall be initiated by the filing 464 of a petition which complies with the sections governing petitions 465 in this chapter and which includes a statement of the youth 466 467 court's original disposition order, probation or parole, the 468 alleged violation of that order, probation or parole, and the facts which show the violation of that order, probation or parole. 469 470 Summons shall be served in the same manner as summons for an 471 adjudicatory hearing. 472 (2) On motion of a child or a child's parent, guardian or custodian, the youth court may, in its discretion, conduct an 473 474 informal hearing to review the disposition order. If the youth 475 court finds a material change of circumstances relating to the disposition of the child, the youth court may modify the 476 477 disposition order to any appropriate disposition of equal or 478 greater precedence which the youth court could have originally 479 ordered. (a) Unless the youth court's jurisdiction has been 480 (3) 481 terminated, all disposition orders for supervision, probation or 482 placement of a child with an individual or an agency shall be reviewed by the youth court judge or referee at least annually to 483 484 determine if continued placement, probation or supervision is in 485 the best interest of the child or the public. For children who have been adjudicated abused or neglected, the youth court shall 486 conduct a permanency hearing within twelve (12) months after the 487

(i) An adjudication that the child has been abused

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earlier of:

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| 490 | or | neglected; | or |
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| 491 | (11) Sixty (60) days from the child's removal from |
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| 492 | the allegedly abusive or neglectful custodian/parent. Notice of |
| 493 | such hearing shall be given in accordance with the provisions of |
| 494 | Section $43-21-505(5)$. In conducting the <u>hearing</u> , the judge or |
| 495 | referee may require a written report, information or statements |
| 496 | from the child's youth court counselor, parent, guardian or |
| 497 | custodian which includes, but is not limited to, an evaluation of |
| 498 | the child's progress and recommendations for further supervision |
| 499 | or treatment. The judge or referee shall, at the permanency |
| 500 | hearing determine the future status of the child, including, but |
| 501 | not limited to, whether the child should be returned to the |
| 502 | parent $\underline{(s)}$ or placed with suitable relatives, * * * placed for |
| 503 | adoption, placed for the purpose of establishing durable legal |
| 504 | custody or should, because of the child's special needs or |
| 505 | circumstances, be continued in foster care on a permanent or |
| 506 | long-term basis. <u>If the child is in an out-of-state placement</u> , |
| 507 | the hearing shall determine whether the out-of-state placement |
| 508 | continues to be appropriate and in the best interest of the child. |
| 509 | The judge or referee may find that reasonable efforts to maintain |
| 510 | the child within his home shall not be required in accordance with |
| 511 | Section 43-21-603(7)(c). |
| 512 | (b) The court may find that the filing of a termination |
| 513 | of parental rights petition is not in the child's best interest |
| 514 | <u>if:</u> |
| 515 | (i) The child is being cared for by a relative; |
| 516 | <u>and/or</u> |
| 517 | (ii) The State Department of Human Services has |
| 518 | documented compelling and extraordinary reasons why termination of |
| 519 | parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child. |
| 520 | (c) (i) In the event that the youth court either |
| 521 | orders or continues the custody or supervision of a child to be |

- 522 placed with the Department of Human Services or any other person
- 523 or public or private agency, other than the child's parent,
- 524 guardian or custodian, * * * unless the reasonable efforts
- 525 requirement is bypassed under Section 43-21-603(7)(c), the youth
- 526 court shall find and the * * * order shall recite that the effect
- 527 of the continuation of the child's residence within his own home
- 528 would be contrary to the welfare of the child and that placement
- 529 or continued placement of the child in foster care is in the best
- 530 interest of the child, and that:
- 531 <u>1.</u> Reasonable efforts have been made to
- 532 maintain the child within his own home, but that the circumstances
- 533 warrant his removal and there is no reasonable alternative to
- 534 custody; or
- 535 <u>2.</u> The circumstances are of such an emergency
- 536 nature that no reasonable efforts have been made to maintain the
- 537 child within his own home, and that there is no reasonable
- 538 alternative to custody.
- (ii) The youth court also shall find and the order
- 540 shall recite that:
- 1. Reasonable efforts were made to reunify
- 542 the child safely with his family if the removal could not be
- 543 prevented; or
- 2. If reasonable efforts were not made to
- 545 prevent the child's removal from home or to reunify the child with
- 546 his family, that reasonable efforts are or were not required; or
- 3. If the permanent plan for the child is
- 548 adoption, guardianship, or some other permanent living arrangement
- 549 other than reunification, that reasonable efforts were made to
- 550 <u>make and finalize that alternate permanent placement.</u>
- 551 (d) The provisions of this subsection shall also apply
- 552 to review of cases involving a dependent child; * * * however,
- 553 such reviews shall take place not less frequently than once each

- 554 one hundred eighty (180) days. A dependent child shall be ordered
- 555 by the youth court judge or referee to be returned to the custody
- 556 and home of the child's parent, guardian or custodian unless the
- 557 judge or referee, upon such review, makes a written finding that
- 558 the return of the child to the home would be contrary to the
- 559 child's best interests.
- 560 (e) Reviews are not to be conducted unless explicitly
- 561 ordered by the youth court concerning those cases in which the
- 562 court has granted durable legal custody. In such cases, the
- 563 Department of Human Services shall be released from any oversight
- 564 or monitoring responsibilities.
- SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 566 and after its passage.