

By: Moody

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1515

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR TO DESIGNATE A PERSON IN HIS
2 OFFICE TO BE A CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR; TO PROVIDE THAT
3 THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE COORDINATOR WILL HAVE THE DUTY OF RECEIVING
4 INQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC RELATED TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND
5 REFERRING AND ASSISTING THOSE PERSONS IN LOCATING THE APPROPRIATE
6 STATE AGENCY THAT PROVIDES THE SERVICES REQUESTED OR NEEDED; TO
7 PROVIDE THAT THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR SHALL BE A PERSON
8 WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE
9 STATE; TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO MAINTAIN A TOLL-FREE
10 TELEPHONE NUMBER DEDICATED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CHILDREN'S
11 SERVICES COORDINATOR; TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
12 PREPARE A PAMPHLET DESCRIBING CHILDREN'S SERVICES THAT ARE
13 PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCIES, WHICH WILL PROMINENTLY DISPLAY THE
14 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR; TO DIRECT
15 THE DEPARTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE THE PAMPHLET TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS TO
16 GET THAT INFORMATION TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN; AND FOR RELATED
17 PURPOSES.

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

19 SECTION 1. (1) The Governor shall appoint or designate one
20 or more persons in his office to be a children's services
21 coordinator, who will have the duty of receiving calls and other
22 inquiries from the public related to children's services and
23 referring and otherwise assisting those persons in locating the
24 appropriate state agency or department that provides the services
25 requested or needed by those persons. The children's services
26 coordinator shall be a person who is knowledgeable about
27 children's services provided by the state, particularly services
28 provided by the Department of Human Services, the Division of
29 Medicaid, the State Department of Health, the Department of
30 Rehabilitation Services, and the Office of Insurance of the
31 Department of Finance and Administration. The Governor's Office
32 shall maintain a toll-free telephone number dedicated solely for
33 the use of the children's services coordinator.

34 (2) The State Department of Health shall prepare a brochure
35 or pamphlet describing children's services that are provided by
36 state agencies, and shall prominently display in the brochure or
37 pamphlet the telephone number of the children's services
38 coordinator in the Governor's Office. The Department of Health
39 shall distribute the brochure or pamphlet to county health
40 departments, county departments of human services, school
41 districts, doctors' offices and other appropriate locations to get
42 that information to parents and children.

43 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
44 and after July 1, 2000.