

By: Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2118

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM
3 MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN ITS CUSTODY FOR
4 EACH TYPE OF PROVIDER AND TO REQUIRE SUCH PAYMENTS TO BE EQUAL FOR
5 EACH PROVIDER BASED UPON THE LEVEL OF SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:[JU1]

10 43-15-17. (1) The State Department of Human Services is
11 authorized to make such payments as may be appropriate for
12 supportive services to facilitate either the return of children to
13 their natural parents or their adoption, depending upon and
14 contingent upon the availability of the State Department of Human
15 Services' securing or having sufficient funds to render this
16 supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be
17 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care
18 payments made on behalf of his or her child, based upon financial
19 ability to pay, until such time as there is a termination of
20 parental rights regarding the child, or the child is adopted.

21 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or
22 county departments of human services, the department shall make
23 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and

24 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after
25 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds
26 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Human
27 Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly payment
28 schedule in effect prior to that date shall be increased by One
29 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with said minimum payment not
30 to preclude the department from increasing payments in subsequent
31 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in
32 order for foster parents to receive such monthly payments
33 authorized under this subsection (2), the Department of Human
34 Services shall require foster care placements to be licensed as
35 foster care homes and shall require prospective foster parents to
36 satisfactorily complete an appropriate training program which
37 emphasizes the goal of the foster care program to provide stable
38 foster placement until a permanency outcome is achieved.

39 (3) From and after July 1, 2000, the Department of Human
40 Services shall define the types of child care providers
41 contracting with the department for services to children placed in
42 its custody, and shall establish a uniform monthly payment
43 schedule per child for each type of provider. From and after July
44 1, 2000, said monthly payments to all providers shall be the same
45 for each child receiving the same level of services.

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