

By: Representative Mayo

To: Judiciary B;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES AND THE  
2 IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MURDER VICTIMS TO RECEIVE FREE  
3 COUNSELING AT REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO  
4 ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION OF THE CRIME; TO DEFINE VIOLENT  
5 CRIME; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section

8 41-19-45, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 41-19-45. (1) Any victim of a violent crime and the  
10 immediate family members of any murder victim may receive free  
11 counseling at any of the state's regional mental health centers  
12 or offices for a period of up to one (1) year following the  
13 commission of the crime. In order to receive the counseling, a  
14 prospective recipient must provide to the mental health center or  
15 office where treatment is being sought, evidence of the nature of  
16 the crime and the date on which the crime was committed.

17 (2) For the purpose of this section, "violent crime" means  
18 any crime which involves the use or attempted use of any force,  
19 the use or attempted use of a deadly weapon or a crime which  
20 involves injury or attempted injury of a human being.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
22 and after July 1, 2001.

