

By: Representatives Roberson, Ellington

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 634

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL NOT MAKE  
3 FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS TO ANY FOSTER PARENTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF MORE  
4 THAN TWO CHILDREN UNLESS THE CHILDREN ARE SIBLINGS; TO INCREASE  
5 THE AMOUNT OF THE FOSTER CARE MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
6 CHILDREN WITH DEBILITATING DISEASES BY 25% OF THE CURRENT AMOUNT;  
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

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

22 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or  
23 county departments of human services, the department shall make  
24 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and  
25 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. However, the  
26 department shall not make foster care payments to any foster  
27 parents for the support of more than two (2) children unless the  
28 children are siblings. From and after July 1, 1998, and subject  
29 to the availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor,



30 the department's foster care and therapeutic care monthly payment  
31 schedule in effect prior to that date shall be increased by One  
32 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with that minimum payment not  
33 to preclude the department from increasing payments in subsequent  
34 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in  
35 order for foster parents to receive such monthly payments  
36 authorized under this subsection (2), the department \* \* \* shall  
37 require foster care placements to be licensed as foster care homes  
38 and shall require prospective foster parents to satisfactorily  
39 complete an appropriate training program which emphasizes the goal  
40 of the foster care program to provide stable foster placement  
41 until a permanency outcome is achieved. From and after July 1,  
42 2001, the amount of the foster care and therapeutic care monthly  
43 payments for the support of children with debilitating diseases  
44 shall be increased by twenty-five percent (25%) above the amount  
45 that was in effect before that date.

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

