

By: Representatives Watson, Scott (80th)

To: Judiciary B

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 869

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW THE WAIVER OF FILING FEES IN DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 93-21-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 93-21-7. (1) A person may seek relief under this chapter
8 for himself by filing a petition with the court alleging abuse by
9 the defendant. Any parent, adult household member, or next friend
10 of the abused person may seek relief under this chapter on behalf
11 of any minor children or any person alleged to be incompetent by
12 filing a petition with the court alleging abuse by the defendant.

13 (2) The abused in any petition for a protection order sought
14 pursuant to this chapter shall not bear the costs associated with
15 its filing or the costs associated with the issuance of service of
16 a warrant or witness subpoena. If the court finds that abuse has
17 been committed, the court shall be authorized to assess all costs
18 to the person guilty of abuse. Nothing in this section shall be
19 construed as prohibiting a judge from assessing costs if the
20 allegations of abuse are determined to be false.

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