

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2752

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-27-20, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES, OFFICE OF
3 COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO THE
4 "OFFICE OF JUVENILE PROBATION/AFTERCARE"; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 43-27-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 43-27-20. (a) Within the Division of Youth Services of the
10 Mississippi Department of Human Services there shall be an Office
11 of Juvenile Probation/Aftercare which shall be headed by a
12 director appointed by and responsible to the Director of the
13 Division of Youth Services. He shall hold a master's degree in
14 social work or a related field and shall have no less than three
15 (3) years' experience in social services, or in lieu of such
16 degree and experience, he shall have a minimum of eight (8) years'
17 experience in social work or a related field. He shall employ and
18 assign the juvenile/probation/aftercare workers to serve in the
19 various areas in the state and any other supporting personnel
20 necessary to carry out the duties of the Office of Juvenile
21 Probation/Aftercare.

22 (b) The Director of the Office of Juvenile
23 Probation/Aftercare shall assign probation and aftercare workers
24 to the youth court or family court judges of the various court
25 districts upon the request of the individual judge on the basis of
26 caseload and need, when funds are available. The probation and
27 aftercare workers shall live in their respective districts except
28 upon approval of the Director of the Office of Juvenile

29 Probation/Aftercare. The Director of the Office of Juvenile
30 Probation/Aftercare is authorized to assign a youth services
31 counselor to a district other than the district in which the youth
32 services counselor lives upon the approval of the youth court
33 judge of the assigned district and the Director of the Division of
34 Youth Services. Every placement shall be with the approval of the
35 youth court or the family court judge, and a probation and
36 aftercare worker may be removed for cause from a youth or family
37 court district.

38 (c) Any counties or cities which, on July 1, 1973, have
39 court counselors or similar personnel may continue using this
40 personnel or may choose to come within the statewide framework.

41 (d) A probation and aftercare worker may be transferred by
42 the division from one court to another after consultation with the
43 judge or judges in the court to which the employee is currently
44 assigned.

45 (e) The Office of Juvenile Probation/Aftercare shall have
46 such duties as the Division of Youth Services shall assign to it
47 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

48 (1) Preparing the social, educational and home-life
49 history and other diagnostic reports on the child for the benefit
50 of the court or the training school; however, this provision shall
51 not abridge the power of the court to require similar services
52 from other agencies, according to law.

53 (2) Serving in counseling capacities with the youth or
54 family courts.

55 (3) Serving as probation agents for the youth or family
56 courts.

57 (4) Serving, advising and counseling of children in the
58 various institutions under the control of the Office of Juvenile
59 Correctional Institutions as may be necessary to the placement of
60 the children in proper environment after release and the placement
61 of children in suitable jobs where necessary and proper.

62 (5) Supervising and guiding of children released or
63 conditionally released from institutions under the control of the
64 Office of Juvenile Correctional Institutions.

65 (6) Counseling in an aftercare program.

66 (7) Coordinating the activities of supporting community
67 agencies which aid in the social adjustment of children released
68 from the institution and in an aftercare program.

69 (8) Providing or arranging for necessary services
70 leading to the rehabilitation of delinquents, either within the
71 division or through cooperative arrangements with other
72 appropriate agencies.

73 (9) Providing counseling and supervision for any child
74 under ten (10) years of age who has been brought to the attention
75 of the court when other suitable personnel is not available and
76 upon request of the court concerned.

77 (10) Supervising the aftercare program and making
78 revocation investigations at the request of the court.

79 (f) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2003.

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