

By: Representative Flaggs

To: Juvenile Justice

HOUSE BILL NO. 974

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE JUVENILE
2 DETENTION CENTERS IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTH SCREENING
3 FOR ALL JUVENILES UPON ADMISSION TO JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS; TO
4 REQUIRE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS TO DEVELOP CERTAIN WRITTEN
5 PROCEDURES FOR JUVENILES THAT ARE NEW TO THE SYSTEM; TO REQUIRE
6 THAT CERTAIN PROGRAMS SHALL BE PROVIDED AT ALL JUVENILE DETENTION
7 CENTERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) All juveniles shall undergo a health
10 screening within one (1) hour of admission to any juvenile
11 detention center. Information obtained during the screening shall
12 include, but shall not be limited to the juvenile is:

- 13 (a) Mental health;
- 14 (b) Suicide risk;
- 15 (c) Alcohol and other drug use and abuse;
- 16 (d) Physical health;
- 17 (e) Aggressive behavior;
- 18 (f) Family relations;
- 19 (g) Peer relations;
- 20 (h) Social skills;
- 21 (i) Educational status; and
- 22 (j) Vocational status.

23 (2) If the screening instrument indicates that a juvenile is
24 in need of emergency medical care or mental health intervention
25 services, the juvenile shall not be admitted into detention. The
26 detention staff shall refer such juveniles to the proper health
27 care facility or mental health service provider for further
28 evaluation.



29 (3) All juveniles shall receive a thorough orientation to
30 the center's procedures, rules, programs and services. The intake
31 process shall operate on twenty-four hours per day.

32 (4) The directors of all of the juvenile detention centers
33 shall amend or develop written procedures for admission of
34 juveniles new to the system. These shall include, but are not
35 limited to the following:

36 (a) Determine that the juvenile is legally committed to
37 the facility;

38 (b) Make a complete search of the juvenile and his
39 possessions;

40 (c) Dispose of personal property;

41 (d) Require shower and hair care, if necessary;

42 (e) Issue clean, laundered clothing, as needed;

43 (f) Issue personal hygiene articles;

44 (g) Perform medical, dental and mental health
45 screening;

46 (h) Assign a housing unit for the juvenile;

47 (i) Record basic personal data and information to be
48 used for mail and visiting lists;

49 (j) Assist juveniles in notifying their families of
50 their admission and procedures for mail and visiting;

51 (k) Assign a registered number to the juvenile; and

52 (l) Provide written orientation materials to the
53 juvenile.

54 (5) All detention centers shall provide or make available
55 the following minimum services and programs:

56 (a) An educational program;

57 (b) A visitation program with parents and guardians;

58 (c) Private communications with visitors and staff;

59 (e) Counseling;

60 (f) Continuous supervision of living units;

61 (g) Medical service;



62 (h) Food service;

63 (i) Recreation and exercise program; and

64 (j) Reading materials.

65 (6) Programs and services shall be initiated for all
66 juveniles once they have completed the admissions process.

67 (7) Programs and professional services may be provided by
68 the detention staff, youth court staff or the staff of the local
69 or state agencies, or such programs and professional services may
70 be provided through contractual arrangements with community
71 agencies.

72 (8) Persons providing the services required in this section
73 shall be qualified or trained in their respective fields.

74 (9) All directors of juvenile detention centers shall amend
75 or develop written procedures to fit the programs and services
76 described herein.

77 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
78 and after July 1, 2002.

