

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2477

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-17-12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE COST OF COURT-ORDERED HOME STUDIES BY SOCIAL
3 WORKERS SHALL BE PAID BY THE PARENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
4 SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-17-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 93-17-12. In any child custody matter hereafter filed in any
9 chancery or county court in which the State of Mississippi or the
10 Department of Human Services is not a party, the court may impose
11 a fee for any court-ordered home study performed by the Department
12 of Human Services. The fee shall be assessed upon either party or
13 upon both parties in the court's discretion. The minimum fee
14 imposed shall be not less than Three Hundred Fifty Dollars
15 (\$350.00) for each household on which a home study is performed.
16 The fee shall be paid directly to the Mississippi Department of
17 Human Services prior to the home study being conducted by the
18 department. In no event, however, shall the cost of the home
19 study be borne by the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

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

