

By: Representative Ford

To: Juvenile Justice

HOUSE BILL NO. 842

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTION 43-27-20, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH CREATES THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES AND PROVIDES THE QUALIFICATIONS AND
4 DUTIES FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES; TO
5 AMEND REENACTED SECTION 43-27-20, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
6 EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THAT SECTION FROM JULY 1, 2003, TO
7 JULY 1, 2004; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-27-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 reenacted and amended as follows:

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

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



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

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

40 (d) A probation and aftercare worker may be transferred by
41 the division from one (1) court to another after consultation with
42 the judge or judges in the court to which the employee is
43 currently assigned.

44 (e) The Division of Community Services shall have such
45 duties as the Department of Youth Services shall assign to it
46 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

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

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



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

64 (6) Counseling in an aftercare program.

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

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

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

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

78 (f) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2004.

79 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
80 and after July 1, 2003.

