

By: Representative Barnett (116th)

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1454

1 AN ACT MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF STATE GENERAL
2 FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF
3 MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS TO MAXIMIZE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE HIRING
4 OF ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** In addition to all other sums heretofore
7 appropriated, the following sum, or so much of it as may be
8 necessary, is appropriated out of any money in the State General
9 Fund not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of the
10 Department of Human Services for the period beginning upon passage
11 and ending June 30, 2003..... \$650,000.00.

12 **SECTION 2.** This additional appropriation is made for the
13 purpose of authorizing state funds to match federal funds for the
14 hiring of additional social workers at the Department of Human
15 Services. The State General Funds appropriated by this act
16 represent funds transferred into the State General Fund by
17 Attorney General Mike Moore resulting from a settlement in a
18 multistate investigation of Bridgestone/Firestone. Not less than
19 One Hundred Eighty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
20 (\$187,500.00) of the funds appropriated by this act shall be
21 allocated to counties in which social worker case loads are in
22 excess of one hundred (100) cases per social worker as reported by
23 the most recent survey of the Mississippi Chapter of the National
24 Association of Social Workers. The department may establish up to
25 forty-two (42) new full-time, permanent DHS-social-worker
26 positions as necessary to ensure that average case loads per
27 social worker do not exceed fifty (50) cases. The department may
28 escalate budget and expend special funds received from any source



29 to carry out the provisions of this act. If funds made available
30 through this act are not adequate to ensure that average case
31 loads per social worker do not exceed fifty (50) cases, the
32 department may maintain case loads above this level provided that
33 funds are allocated to counties with the greatest need as
34 determined by the most recent survey of case loads per social
35 worker.

36 **SECTION 3.** The money appropriated by this act shall be paid
37 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
38 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
39 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his
40 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or
41 officers in the manner provided by law.

42 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after its passage and through June 30, 2003.

