

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2349

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

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

