

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and  
Welfare; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
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 IF ORDERED BY THE COURT; 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 temporary or permanent custody  
10 has already been placed with a parent or guardian, the court shall  
11 impose a fee for any court-ordered home study performed by the  
12 Department of Human Services. The fee shall be assessed upon  
13 either party or upon both parties in the court's discretion. The  
14 minimum fee imposed shall be not less than Three Hundred Fifty  
15 Dollars (\$350.00) for each household on which a home study is  
16 performed. The fee shall be paid directly to the Mississippi  
17 Department of Human Services prior to the home study being  
18 conducted by the department. The judge may order the fee be paid  
19 by one or both of the parents or guardian. If the court  
20 determines that both parents or the guardian are unable to pay the  
21 fee, the judge shall waive the fee and the cost of the home study  
22 shall be defrayed by the Department of Human Services.

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

