

By: Representatives Reeves, Akins, Aldridge, Brown, Carlton, Dickson, Flaggs, Fleming, Fredericks, Jennings, Mayo, McBride, Montgomery, Moore, Rogers (14th), Scott, Taylor, Thomas, Watson, Wells-Smith, Whittington, Zuber

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 794

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-117, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR DIVORCE ACTIONS TO BE
 3 DEPOSITED INTO THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUND; AND FOR
 4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-21-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 7 amended as follows:

8 93-21-117. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a
 9 special fund to be known as the "Victims of Domestic Violence
 10 Fund." The circuit clerks of the state shall deposit in such fund
 11 on a monthly basis the additional fee charged and collected for
 12 marriage licenses under the provisions of Section 25-7-13,
 13 Mississippi Code of 1972. In addition, all other monies received
 14 from every source for the support of the program for victims of
 15 domestic violence, established by Sections 93-21-101 through
 16 93-21-113, shall be deposited in the "Victims of Domestic Violence
 17 Fund." The monies in the fund shall be used by the State
 18 Department of Health solely for funding and administering domestic
 19 violence shelters under the provisions of Sections 93-21-101
 20 through 93-21-113, in such amounts as the Legislature may
 21 appropriate to the department for the program for victims of
 22 domestic violence established by Sections 93-21-101 through
 23 93-21-113. Not more than ten percent (10%) of the monies in the
 24 "Victims of Domestic Violence Fund" shall be appropriated to the
 25 State Department of Health for the administration of domestic
 26 violence shelters.

27 In addition to any other fee collected for filing an action
 28 for divorce in chancery court, there shall be an additional fee of

29 Thirty-seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$37.50) collected for each
30 divorce action which shall be remitted to the "Victims of Domestic
31 Violence Fund." These funds shall be for support of the program
32 for victims of domestic violence established by Section 93-21-101
33 et seq. The divorce fee shall be collected by the chancery clerks
34 of the state and deposited to the fund on a monthly basis.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2004.