

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

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
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 Ten Dollars (\$10.00) collected for each divorce action which shall
30 be remitted to the "Victims of Domestic Violence Fund." These
31 funds shall be for support of the program for victims of domestic
32 violence established by Section 93-21-101 et seq. The divorce fee
33 shall be collected by the chancery clerks of the state and
34 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.