

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.