

By: Senator(s) White

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2148

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN  
4 AN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE REGISTRY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 43-15-19. (1) The State Department of Human Services and  
9 the Mississippi State Department of Health shall jointly maintain  
10 a Mississippi Adoption Resource Exchange registry, which shall  
11 contain (a) a total listing of all children freed for adoption,  
12 (b) a listing of all persons who wish to adopt children and who  
13 are approved by a licensed adoption agency in the State of  
14 Mississippi, and (c) statistical information on the number of  
15 adoption petitions filed and approved in each chancery court  
16 district in the state, to be made available to the department by  
17 the senior chancellor of each chancery court district. Said  
18 registry shall be distributed to all county welfare directors and  
19 licensed adoption agencies within the state and shall be updated  
20 at least quarterly. The State Department of Human Services and  
21 the State Department of Health shall establish regulations for  
22 listing descriptive characteristics while protecting the privacy  
23 of the children's names. Listed names shall be removed when  
24 adoption placement plans are made for a child or when a person  
25 withdraws an application for adoption.

26 (2) Adoptive parents shall be given the option of having  
27 their names placed in the registry. They shall be required to  
28 give written authority to the county human services department to

29 place their names in the registry and said authorization shall be  
30 forwarded to the Department of Human Services, Office of Family  
31 and Children's Services, for approval.

32         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
33 and after July 1, 2006.