

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2933

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REMOVE LOCAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR CERTAIN  
3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-21-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 93-21-107. (1) To qualify for funds under the provisions of  
8 Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113, a domestic violence shelter  
9 shall meet all the following requirements:

10 (a) Be incorporated in the state or recognized by the  
11 Secretary of State as a private or public nonprofit corporation.  
12 Such corporation shall have a board of directors and/or an  
13 advisory committee who represents the racial, ethnic and social  
14 economic diversity of the area to be served, including, if  
15 possible, at least one (1) person who is or has been a victim of  
16 domestic violence.

17 (b) Have designed and developed a program to provide  
18 the following basic services to victims of domestic violence and  
19 their children:

20 (i) Shelter on a twenty-four (24) hour a day,  
21 seven (7) days a week basis.

22 (ii) A twenty-four (24) hour, seven (7) days a  
23 week switchboard for crisis calls.

24 (iii) Temporary housing and food facilities.

25 (iv) Group support and peer counseling.

26 (v) Referrals to existing services in the  
27 community and follow-up on the outcome of the referrals.

28                   (vi) A method of referral for medical care, legal  
29 assistance and group support and counseling of victims of domestic  
30 violence.

31                   (vii) Information regarding reeducation, marriage  
32 and family counseling, job counseling, and training programs,  
33 housing referrals, and other available social services.

34                   (viii) A referral program of counseling for the  
35 victim and the offender.

36           (2) Domestic violence shelters shall establish procedures  
37 for admission of victims of domestic violence who may seek  
38 admission to these shelters on a voluntary basis.

39           (3) A domestic violence shelter shall not qualify for funds  
40 if it discriminates in its admissions or provision of services on  
41 the basis of race, religion, color, age, marital status, national  
42 origin or ancestry.

43       \* \* \*

44           (4) A domestic violence shelter receiving state funding  
45 under the provisions of Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113 shall  
46 not be prohibited from accepting gifts, trusts, bequests, grants,  
47 endowments, federal funds, other special source funds or transfers  
48 of property of any kind for the support of that shelter program.

49           (5) No domestic violence shelter may receive more than Fifty  
50 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) annually from state funding under  
51 the provisions of Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113.

52           (6) A domestic violence shelter shall require persons  
53 employed by or volunteering services to the shelter to maintain  
54 the confidentiality of any information that would identify  
55 individuals served by the shelter.

56           (7) A domestic violence shelter shall provide educational  
57 programs relating to battered spouses and domestic violence  
58 designed for both the community at large and/or specialized groups  
59 such as hospital personnel and law enforcement officials.

60       (8) No child shall be placed in any domestic violence  
61 shelter that receives state funding under these provisions of  
62 Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113, and no domestic violence  
63 shelter that receives state funding under these provisions may  
64 admit or accept any child, unless the child is accompanied by his  
65 parent or guardian and such parent or guardian will remain with  
66 the child in the shelter until the child leaves or is released  
67 from the shelter. However, this subsection shall not prevent any  
68 rape crisis center from providing care, counseling and related  
69 services to any child who is a victim of rape, attempted rape,  
70 sexual battery or attempted sexual battery and who is not  
71 accompanied by his parent or guardian.

72       SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 and after July 1, 2006.