Adopted COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill No. 570

BY: Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

23 SECTION 1. Section 43-17-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 amended as follows:

43-17-39. (1) The Department of Human Services is 25 Mississippi's lead agency in the federal Child Care and 26 Development Fund (CCDF) program. CCDF is comprised of the 27 following funding streams: discretionary, mandatory, federal 28 matching, and state matching. In addition, as allowed by federal 29 regulation, Mississippi currently transfers twenty percent (20%) 30 of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant into 31 32 CCDF. The CCDF/TANF program helps eligible working parents pay 33 for early care and education services for their children.

34 (2) In the operation of the CCDF/TANF program, the
 35 Department of Human Services shall comply with the following
 36 requirements:

37 (a) The department shall maintain records and post on a
38 monthly basis, as information is available, on a publicly
39 accessible website for each county, the information required for
40 the federal report known as the Child Care Aggregate Report,
41 ACF-800, federal report ACF-801 and for the state as a whole, the

42 information required for the financial report known as ACF-69643 related to CCDF (42 USCS, Chapter 105, Subchapter II-B).

44 (b) The department shall establish performance level 45 standards including the following requirements in CCDF/TANF 46 certificate subgrants: measurable outcome-based contract 47 measures, clear statements of expectations, evaluation criteria, 48 documentation, and the explicit descriptions of reporting requirements. The State Department of Audit shall annually audit 49 50 the expenditures by the department, subject to the availability of 51 public or private funds specifically for that purpose. The State 52 Department of Audit shall also annually audit expenditures by subrecipients/subgrantees and providers including those currently 53 54 known as "Designated Agents" and those to whom Quality Improvement funds were awarded by the department, and may audit such 55 56 expenditures during the five (5) years next preceding July 1, 57 2005, at the request of the Executive Director of the Department 58 of Human Services and subject to the availability of funds for 59 that purpose. In addition, the State Department of Audit shall periodically, but not less than once every three (3) years, 60 61 conduct performance audits on the department for the purposes of 62 assessing program impact, subject to the availability of public or 63 private funds for that purpose. The State Department of Audit 64 shall provide copies of each of the audits to the Chairmen of the 65 House Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate 66 Public Health and Welfare Committee.

(c) The department shall provide to the custodial
parents a plain-language explanation of all program criteria to
qualify for a CCDF/TANF certificate to obtain early care and
education for a child from birth up to the 13th birthday if not
disabled, but if disabled, then up to eighteen (18) years of age.
(d) The department shall require licensed child care
providers participating in the CCDF/TANF certificate program to

74 provide developmentally appropriate early childhood educational 75 activities, including reading and writing.

76 **

77 (3) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.
78 SECTION 2. Section 43-20-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
79 amended as follows:

80 (1) From and after July 1, 2006, the powers and 43-20-5. duties of the State Department of Health relating to the licensure 81 of child care facilities under this chapter shall be transferred 82 to the State Department of Human Services. All records, property, 83 84 funds, other assets and personnel of the Child Care Licensure Unit 85 and the Child Care Licensure Program shall be transferred to the 86 Department of Human Services. The Executive Director of the 87 Department of Human Services may assign to the appropriate offices such powers and duties deemed appropriate to carry out the lawful 88 functions of the department under this chapter. 89

90 (2) When used in this chapter, the following words shall 91 have the following meanings:

"Child care facility" means a place that provides 92 (a) 93 shelter and personal care for six (6) or more children who are not related within the third degree computed according to the civil 94 95 law to the operator and who are under thirteen (13) years of age, for any part of the twenty-four-hour day, whether that place is 96 97 organized or operated for profit or not. The term "child care 98 facility" includes day nurseries, day care centers and any other facility that falls within the scope of the definitions set forth 99 100 in this paragraph, regardless of auspices. Exemptions from the provisions of this chapter include: 101

(i) Child care facilities that operate for no more
than two (2) days a week, whose primary purpose is to provide
respite for the caregiver or temporary care during other scheduled
or related activities and organized programs that operate for

106 three (3) or fewer weeks per year such as, but not limited to, 107 vacation bible schools and scout day camps.

108 (ii) Any child residential home as defined in, and 109 in compliance with the provisions of, Section 43-16-3(b) et seq.

110 (iii) 1. Any elementary, including kindergarten, 111 and/or secondary school system, accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Education, the Southern Association of 112 Colleges and Schools, the Mississippi Private School Education 113 Association, the American Association of Christian Schools, the 114 Association of Christian Schools International, and any Head Start 115 116 program operating in conjunction with an elementary school system, whether it is public, private or parochial, whose primary purpose 117 118 is a structured school or school readiness program.

119 2. Accreditation, for the purpose of 120 exemption from the provisions of this chapter, means: a. receipt 121 by any school or school system of full accreditation from an accrediting entity listed in item 1 of this subparagraph (iii), or 122 123 b. proof of application by the school or school system for accreditation status from the accrediting entity. Proof of 124 125 application for accreditation status shall include, but not be limited to, a copy of the applicant's completed application for 126 127 accreditation filed with the licensing agency and a letter or 128 other authenticating documentation from a signatory authority with 129 the accrediting entity that the application for accreditation has 130 been received and that the applicant is currently under consideration or review for full accreditation status by the 131 132 accrediting entity. An exemption for a nonaccredited applicant under this item 2 shall be for a maximum of one (1) year from the 133 receipt date by the licensing agency of the completed 134 135 documentation for proof of application for accreditation status. 136 Failure to receive full accreditation by the end of the one-year 137 exemption period for a nonaccredited applicant shall result in the

nonaccredited applicant no longer remaining exempt from the 138 139 provisions of this chapter at the end of the one-year period. However, if full accreditation is not received by the end of the 140 141 one-year exemption period, the State Department of Human Services, 142 in its discretion, may extend the exemption period for any 143 nonaccredited applicant for periods of six (6) months, with the 144 total extension not to exceed one (1) year. During any such extension periods, the department shall have the authority to 145 146 enforce child care facility licensure provisions relating to the health and safety of the children in the school or school system. 147 148 If a nonaccredited applicant fails to receive full accreditation by the end of all extended exemption periods, the applicant shall 149 150 no longer remain exempt from the provisions of this chapter at the 151 end of the extended exemption periods. This item 2 shall stand 152 repealed on July 1, 2007.

(iv) Any membership organization affiliated with a national organization that charges only a nominal annual membership fee, does not receive monthly, weekly or daily payments for services, and is certified by its national association as being in compliance with the association's minimum standards and procedures including, but not limited to, the Boys and Girls Club of America, and the YMCA.

160 (v) Any family child care home as defined in161 Section 43-20-53(a) et seq.

162 All other preschool child care programs and/or extended day163 school programs must meet requirements set forth in this chapter.

164 (b) "Health" means that condition of being sound in 165 mind and body and encompasses an individual's physical, mental and 166 emotional welfare.

167 (c) "Safety" means that condition of being protected168 from hurt, injury or loss.

169 (d) "Person" means any person, firm, partnership,170 corporation or association.

"Operator" means any person, acting individually or 171 (e) 172 jointly with another person or persons, who establishes, owns, 173 operates, conducts or maintains a child care facility. The child care facility license shall be issued in the name of the operator, 174 175 or, if there is more than one (1) operator, in the name of one (1) of the operators. If there is more than one (1) operator, all 176 177 statutory and regulatory provisions concerning the background checks of operators shall be equally applied to all operators of a 178 179 facility including, but not limited to, a spouse who jointly owns, 180 operates or maintains the child care facility regardless of which particular person is named on the license. 181

(f) "Personal care" means assistance rendered by personnel of the child care facility in performing one or more of the activities of daily living which includes, but is not limited to, the feeding, personal grooming, supervising and dressing of children placed in the child care facility.

187 (g) "Licensing agency" means the Mississippi <u>Department</u>
 188 <u>of Human Services</u>.

(h) "Caregiver" means any person who provides direct
care, supervision or guidance to children in a child care
facility, regardless of title or occupation.

192 SECTION 3. Section 43-20-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 193 amended as follows:

194 43-20-8. (1) The licensing agency shall have powers and 195 duties as set forth below, in addition to other duties prescribed 196 under this chapter:

197 (a) Promulgate rules and regulations concerning the
198 licensing and regulation of child care facilities as defined in
199 Section 43-20-5;

(b) Have the authority to issue, deny, suspend, revoke,
restrict or otherwise take disciplinary action against licensees
as provided for in this chapter;

203 (c) Set and collect fees and penalties as provided for204 in this chapter; and

205 (d) Have such other powers as may be required to carry206 out the provisions of this chapter.

207 (2) Child care facilities shall assure that parents have208 welcome access to the child care facility at all times.

(3) Each child care facility shall develop and maintain a current list of contact persons for each child provided care by that facility. An agreement may be made between the child care facility and the child's parent, guardian or contact person at the time of registration to inform the parent, guardian or contact person if the child does not arrive at the facility within a reasonable time.

(4) Child care facilities shall require that, for any 216 217 current or prospective caregiver, all criminal records, background and sex offender registry checks and current child abuse registry 218 checks are obtained. In order to determine the applicant's 219 220 suitability for employment, the applicant shall be fingerprinted. 221 If no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the 222 fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Department of Public Safety to the FBI for a national criminal history record check. 223

224 (5) The licensing agency shall require to be performed a criminal records background check and a child abuse registry check 225 226 for all operators of a child care facility and any person living 227 in a residence used for child care. The Department of Human 228 Services shall have the authority to disclose * * * any potential 229 applicant whose name is listed on the Child Abuse Central Registry 230 or has a pending administrative review. That information shall 231 remain confidential by all parties. In order to determine the

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applicant's suitability for employment, the applicant shall be fingerprinted. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Department of Public Safety to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.

(6) The licensing agency shall have the authority to exclude a particular crime or crimes or a substantiated finding of child abuse and/or neglect as disqualifying individuals or entities for prospective or current employment or licensure.

(7) The licensing agency and its agents, officers,
employees, attorneys and representatives shall not be held civilly
liable for any findings, recommendations or actions taken under
this section.

245 (8) All fees incurred in compliance with this section shall be borne by the child care facility. The licensing agency is 246 247 authorized to charge a fee that includes the amount required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the national criminal 248 249 history record check in compliance with the Child Protection Act 250 of 1993, as amended, and any necessary costs incurred by the 251 licensing agency for the handling and administration of the 252 criminal history background checks.

253 **SECTION 4.** Section 43-20-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 254 amended as follows:

43-20-11. An application for a license under this chapter 255 256 shall be made to the licensing agency upon forms provided by it, 257 and shall contain such information as the licensing agency may 258 reasonably require. Each application for a license shall be accompanied by a license fee not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars 259 (\$200.00), which shall be paid to the licensing agency. Licenses 260 261 shall be granted to applicants upon the filing of properly completed application forms, accompanied by payment of the said 262 263 license fee, and a certificate of inspection and approval by the

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fire department of the municipality or other political subdivision 264 265 in which the facility is located, and by a certificate of 266 inspection and approval by the health department of the county in 267 which the facility is located, and approval by the licensing 268 agency; except that if no fire department exists where the 269 facility is located, the State Fire Marshal shall certify as to 270 the inspection for safety from fire hazards. Said fire, county 271 health department and licensing agency inspections and approvals 272 shall be based upon regulations promulgated by the licensing agency * * *. 273

Each license shall be issued only for the premises and person or persons named in the application and shall not be transferable or assignable except with the written approval of the licensing agency. Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises.

279 No governmental entity or agency shall be required to pay the 280 fee or fees set forth in this section.

281 SECTION 5. Section 43-20-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 282 amended as follows:

43-20-12. All fees collected by the <u>Mississippi Department</u> of <u>Human Services</u> under this chapter and any penalties collected by the board for violations of this chapter shall be deposited in the State General Fund * * *.

287 SECTION 6. Section 43-20-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 288 amended as follows:

43-20-14. (1) The licensing agency may deny a license or
refuse to renew a license for any of the reasons set forth in
subsection (3) of this section.

(2) Before the licensing agency may deny or refuse to renew, the applicant or person named on the license shall be entitled to a hearing in order to show cause why the license should not be denied or should be renewed.

(3) The licensing agency may suspend, revoke or restrict the license of any child care facility upon one or more of the following grounds:

(a) Fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of materialfacts;

301 (b) Conviction of an operator for any crime if the 302 licensing agency finds that the act or acts for which the operator 303 was convicted could have a detrimental effect on children cared 304 for by any child care facility;

305 (c) Violation of any of the provisions of this act or 306 of the regulations governing the licensing and regulation of child 307 care facilities promulgated by the licensing agency;

308 (d) Any conduct, or failure to act, that is found or 309 determined by the licensing agency to threaten the health or 310 safety of children at the facility;

311 (e) Failure by the child care facility to comply with 312 the provisions of Section 43-20-8(3) regarding background checks 313 of caregivers; and

(f) Information received by the licensing agency as a result of the criminal records background check and the child abuse registry check on all operators under Section 43-20-8.

(4) Before the licensing agency may suspend, revoke or restrict the license of any facility, any licensee affected by that decision of the licensing agency shall be entitled to a hearing in which the licensee may show cause why the license should not be suspended, revoked or restricted.

322 (5) Any licensee who disagrees with or is aggrieved by a 323 decision of the Mississippi State Department of <u>Human Services</u> in 324 regard to the denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation or 325 restriction of the license of the licensee, may appeal to the 326 chancery court of the county in which the facility is located. 327 The appeal shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the

328 licensee receives written notice of the final administrative 329 action by the Mississippi State Department of <u>Human Services</u> as to 330 the suspension, revocation or restriction of the license of the 331 licensee.

332 **SECTION 7.** Section 43-20-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 333 amended as follows:

43-20-53. As used in Sections 43-20-51 through 43-20-65:
(a) "Family child care home" means any residential
facility occupied by the operator where five (5) or fewer children
who are not related within the third degree computed according to
the civil law to the provider and who are under the age of
thirteen (13) years of age are provided care for any part of the
twenty-four-hour day.

341 (b) "Registering agency" means the Mississippi State342 Department of Human <u>Services</u>.

343 (c) "Provider" means the person responsible for the 344 care of children.

345 SECTION 8. Section 43-20-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 346 amended as follows:

347 43-20-57. (1) No person shall knowingly maintain a family 348 child care home if, in such family child care home, there resides, 349 works or regularly volunteers any person who:

350 (a) (i) Has a felony conviction for a crime against351 persons;

352 (ii) Has a felony conviction under the Uniform353 Controlled Substances Act;

354 (iii) Has a conviction for a crime of child abuse 355 or neglect;

(iv) Has a conviction for any sex offense as defined in Section 45-33-23, Mississippi Code of 1972; or (v) Any other offense committed in another

359 jurisdiction or any federal offense which, if committed in this

360 state, would be deemed to be such a crime without regard to its 361 designation elsewhere;

362 (b) Has been adjudicated a juvenile offender because of
363 having committed an act which if done by an adult would constitute
364 the commission of a felony and which is a crime against persons;

365 (c) Has had a child declared in a court order in this 366 or any other state to be deprived or a child in need of care based 367 on an allegation of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect 368 or sexual abuse;

369 (d) Has had parental rights terminated pursuant to
370 Section 93-15-101 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972; or

371 (e) Has an infectious or contagious disease, as defined
372 by the State Department of Health pursuant to Section 41-23-1,
373 Mississippi Code of 1972.

374 (2) No person shall maintain a family child care home if
375 such person has been found to be a disabled person in need of a
376 guardian or conservator, or both.

377 (3) Any person who resides in the home and who has been
378 found to be a disabled person in need of a guardian or
379 conservator, or both, shall be included in the total number of
380 children allowed in care.

381 (4) In accordance with the provision of this subsection (4), 382 the State Department of Human Services shall have access to any court orders or adjudications of any court of record, any records 383 384 of such orders or adjudications, criminal history record 385 information in the possession of the Mississippi Highway Safety 386 Patrol or court of this state concerning persons working, 387 regularly volunteering or residing in a family child care home. 388 The department shall have access to these records for the purpose 389 of determining whether or not the home meets the requirements of Sections 43-20-51 through 43-20-65. 390

391 (5) No family child care home or its employees shall be 392 liable for civil damages to any person refused employment or 393 discharged from employment by reason of such home's compliance 394 with the provisions of this section if such home acts in good 395 faith to comply with this section.

396 SECTION 9. Section 43-20-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 397 amended as follows:

398 43-20-59. (1) Any person maintaining a family child care
399 home may register such home with the State Department of <u>Human</u>
400 <u>Services</u> on forms provided by the department.

401 (2) A certificate of registration shall be issued to the 402 applicant for registration who (a) attests to the safety of the 403 home for the care of children, (b) submits a fee of Five Dollars 404 (\$5.00) payable to the department, and (c) certifies that no 405 person described in <u>paragraph</u> (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) of Section 406 43-20-57(1) resides, works or volunteers in the family child care 407 home.

408 (3) The department shall furnish each applicant for 409 registration a family child care home safety evaluation form to be 410 completed by the applicant and submitted with the registration 411 application.

412 (4) The certificate of registration shall be renewed413 annually in the same manner provided for in this section.

(5) A certificate of registration shall be in force for one 414 415 (1) year after the date of issuance unless revoked pursuant to 416 Sections 43-20-51 through 43-20-65. The certificate shall specify 417 that the registrant may operate a family child care home for five 418 (5) or fewer children. This section shall not be construed to 419 limit the right of the department to enter a registered family 420 child care home for the purpose of assessing compliance with Sections 43-20-51 through 43-20-65 after receiving a complaint 421

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422 against the registrant of such home or in conducting a periodic 423 routine inspection.

424 (6) The department shall adopt rules and regulations to425 implement the registration provisions.

426 **SECTION 10.** Section 43-17-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 427 amended as follows:

428 43-17-39. (1) The Department of Human Services is 429 Mississippi's lead agency in the federal Child Care and 430 Development Fund (CCDF) program. CCDF is comprised of the following funding streams: discretionary, mandatory, federal 431 432 matching, and state matching. In addition, as allowed by federal regulation, Mississippi currently transfers twenty percent (20%) 433 434 of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant into 435 CCDF. The CCDF/TANF program helps eligible working parents pay 436 for early care and education services for their children.

437 (2) In the operation of the CCDF/TANF program, the
438 Department of Human Services shall comply with the following
439 requirements:

(a) The department shall maintain records and post on a
monthly basis, as information is available, on a publicly
accessible website for each county, the information required for
the federal report known as the Child Care Aggregate Report,
ACF-800, federal report ACF-801 and for the state as a whole, the
information required for the financial report known as ACF-696
related to CCDF (42 USCS, Chapter 105, Subchapter II-B).

(b) The department shall establish performance level
standards including the following requirements in CCDF/TANF
certificate subgrants: measurable outcome-based contract
measures, clear statements of expectations, evaluation criteria,
documentation, and the explicit descriptions of reporting
requirements. The State Department of Audit shall annually audit
the expenditures by the department, subject to the availability of

public or private funds specifically for that purpose. 454 The State 455 Department of Audit shall also annually audit expenditures by 456 subrecipients/subgrantees and providers including those currently 457 known as "Designated Agents" and those to whom Quality Improvement 458 funds were awarded by the department, and may audit such 459 expenditures during the five (5) years next preceding July 1, 460 2005, at the request of the Executive Director of the Department 461 of Human Services and subject to the availability of funds for 462 that purpose. In addition, the State Department of Audit shall 463 periodically, but not less than once every three (3) years, 464 conduct performance audits on the department for the purposes of 465 assessing program impact, subject to the availability of public or 466 private funds for that purpose. The State Department of Audit 467 shall provide copies of each of the audits to the Chairmen of the 468 House Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate 469 Public Health and Welfare Committee.

(c) The department shall provide to the custodial parents a plain-language explanation of all program criteria to qualify for a CCDF/TANF certificate to obtain early care and education for a child from birth up to the 13th birthday if not disabled, but if disabled, then up to eighteen (18) years of age.

(d) The department shall require licensed child care
providers participating in the CCDF/TANF certificate program to
provide developmentally appropriate early childhood educational
activities, including reading and writing.

479 (3) [<u>Deleted</u>]

480 (4) [Deleted]

481 **SECTION 11.** Sections 43-20-7 and 43-20-55, Mississippi Code 482 of 1972, which create an Advisory Council to assist the licensing 483 agency in the development of child care facility standards and 484 regulations, are hereby repealed. 485 **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 486 and after July 1, 2006.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE SECTION THAT PRESCRIBES 1 2 3 CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN THE OPERATION OF THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND/TEMPORARY 4 5 ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTIONS 43-20-5, 43-20-8, 43-20-11, 43-20-12, 43-20-14, 43-20-53, 43-20-57 AND 43-20-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO TRANSFER THE POWERS AND 6 7 DUTIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RELATING TO THE LICENSURE 8 OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES 9 10 AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL PERFORM ALL OF THE DUTIES RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF 11 REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF LICENSED CHILD CARE 12 13 FACILITIES THAT WERE FORMERLY PERFORMED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF 14 HEALTH; TO AMEND SECTION 43-17-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE AUTOMATIC REPEALER ON THE STATUTE PROVIDING THAT THE 15 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE FEDERAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 16 17 43-20-7 AND 43-20-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATE AN 18 ADVISORY COUNCIL TO ASSIST THE LICENSING AGENCY IN THE DEVELOPMENT 19 20 OF CHILD CARE FACILITY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS; AND FOR RELATED 21 PURPOSES.