

## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 475

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

### AMENDMENT NO. 1

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

22        SECTION 1. (1) There is established a scholarship program  
23 to encourage family protection workers employed by the Department  
24 of Human Services to obtain the college education necessary to  
25 become licensed as a social worker, master social worker or  
26 certified social worker and become a family protection specialist  
27 for the department.

28        (2) Any person who is employed as a family protection worker  
29 for the Department of Human Services shall be eligible for a  
30 financial scholarship from the Board of Trustees of State  
31 Institutions of Higher Learning, which shall be used to pay the  
32 costs of the person's education at a state institution of higher  
33 learning in Mississippi to obtain a college degree that is  
34 necessary to become licensed as a social worker, master social  
35 worker or certified social worker and become a family protection  
36 specialist for the department. The annual amount of a scholarship  
37 award under the program shall be equal to the total cost of  
38 tuition and fees at the college or university in which the student  
39 is enrolled, not to exceed an amount equal to the highest total  
40 cost of tuition and fees assessed by a state institution of higher  
41 learning during that school year.

42        (3) Scholarship awards made under the program shall be  
43 available to both full-time and part-time students. Students  
44 enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a maximum of two (2)  
45 annual awards. The maximum number of scholarship awards that may  
46 be made to students attending school on a part-time basis, and the  
47 maximum time period for part-time students to complete the number

48 of academic hours necessary to obtain the necessary degree, shall  
49 be established by rules and regulations of the Board of Trustees  
50 of State Institutions of Higher Learning. Scholarships under the  
51 program shall not be based upon an applicant's eligibility for  
52 financial aid. A student must maintain a "C" average or higher in  
53 his or her college coursework in order to continue receiving the  
54 scholarship.

55 (4) After a person who received a scholarship under the  
56 program has obtained a college degree that is necessary to become  
57 licensed as a social worker, master social worker or certified  
58 social worker and has received such a license from the Board of  
59 Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists,  
60 the person shall render service as a family protection specialist  
61 for the Department of Human Services for a period of not less than  
62 three (3) years from the date that the person became a family  
63 protection specialist.

64 (5) Any person who receives a scholarship under the program  
65 who fails to complete a program of study that is necessary to  
66 become licensed as a social worker, master social worker or  
67 certified social worker, or who fails to receive such a license  
68 from the Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and  
69 Family Therapists, shall become liable immediately to the Board of  
70 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the sum of  
71 all scholarship awards made to that person, plus interest accruing  
72 at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person  
73 discontinues his or her participation in the program. Any person  
74 who fails to complete his or her service obligation as a family  
75 protection specialist for the Department of Human Services for not  
76 less than three (3) years, as required under subsection (4) of  
77 this section, shall become liable immediately to the board for the  
78 sum of all scholarship awards made to that person, plus interest  
79 accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person  
80 discontinues his or her service. If a claim for payment under  
81 this subsection is placed in the hands of an attorney for

82 collection, the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount  
83 equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

84 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature that the pursuit of  
85 necessary college education by family protection workers through  
86 the scholarship program shall not interfere with the duties of the  
87 family protection workers with the Department of Human Services.  
88 The department shall promulgate regulations regarding family  
89 protection workers who participate in the scholarship program to  
90 ensure that such participation does not interfere with their  
91 duties with the department.

92 (7) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
93 Learning shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the  
94 proper administration of the scholarship program established under  
95 this section. The board shall be the administering agency of the  
96 program.

97 (8) If insufficient funds are available to fully fund  
98 scholarship awards to all eligible students, the Board of Trustees  
99 of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall make the awards to  
100 first-time students on a first-come, first-served basis; however,  
101 priority consideration shall be given to persons previously  
102 receiving awards under the program.

103 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104 and after July 1, 2007; and shall stand repealed from and after  
105 June 30, 2007.

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

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE  
2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR  
3 FAMILY PROTECTION WORKERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 HUMAN SERVICES TO OBTAIN THE COLLEGE EDUCATION NECESSARY TO BECOME  
5 LICENSED AS SOCIAL WORKERS AND BECOME FAMILY PROTECTION  
6 SPECIALISTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO  
7 RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM, OBTAINS A COLLEGE DEGREE  
8 NECESSARY TO BECOME LICENSED AS A SOCIAL WORKER AND RECEIVES SUCH  
9 A LICENSE, SHALL RENDER SERVICE AS A FAMILY PROTECTION SPECIALIST  
10 FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN THREE YEARS FROM  
11 THE DATE THAT THE PERSON BECAME A FAMILY PROTECTION SPECIALIST; TO  
12 PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE  
13 PROGRAM WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A PROGRAM OF STUDY NECESSARY TO  
14 BECOME LICENSED AS A SOCIAL WORKER, AND ANY PERSON WHO RECEIVES A  
15 SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE HIS OR HER  
16 SERVICE OBLIGATION AS A FAMILY PROTECTION SPECIALIST FOR THE

17 DEPARTMENT FOR NOT LESS THAN THREE YEARS, SHALL BECOME LIABLE  
18 IMMEDIATELY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SUM OF ALL  
19 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECEIVED, PLUS INTEREST; AND FOR RELATED  
20 PURPOSES.

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John O. Gilbert  
Secretary of the Senate