

## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 885

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:

7       **SECTION 1.** Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9       43-15-17. (1) The State Department of Human Services is  
10 authorized to make such payments as may be appropriate for  
11 supportive services to facilitate either the return of children to  
12 their natural parents or their adoption, depending upon and  
13 contingent upon the availability of the State Department of Human  
14 Services' securing or having sufficient funds to render this  
15 supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be  
16 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care or  
17 kinship care payments made on behalf of his or her child, based  
18 upon financial ability to pay, until such time as there is a  
19 termination of parental rights regarding the child, or the child  
20 is adopted.

21       (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or  
22 county departments of human services, the department shall make  
23 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and  
24 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after  
25 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds  
26 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Human  
27 Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly payment  
28 schedule in effect before that date shall be increased by One  
29 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with that minimum payment not  
30 to preclude the department from increasing payments in later years  
31 as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in order  
32 for foster parents to receive the monthly payments authorized

33 under this subsection (2), the Department of Human Services shall  
34 require foster care placements to be licensed as foster care homes  
35 and shall require prospective foster parents to satisfactorily  
36 complete an appropriate training program that emphasizes the goal  
37 of the foster care program to provide stable foster placement  
38 until a permanency outcome is achieved.

39 (3) For a child placed in the care of the child's relative  
40 within the third degree by the state or county departments of  
41 human services, the department may make monthly payments to defray  
42 the relative's expense of furnishing room and board if the  
43 department, upon performing a home study, determines that  
44 financial inability to maintain the child is the sole reason  
45 preventing the relative from assuming custody of the child.  
46 Subject to the availability of funds therefor, the department's  
47 kinship care payment may be in an amount up to one hundred percent  
48 (100%) of the amount of the foster care board payment. The  
49 department may continue to make those payments to the relative  
50 after the department relinquishes legal custody of the child to  
51 the relative. Any such payments for kinship care shall be subject  
52 to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
54 and after July 1, 2007.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PAY KINSHIP CARE  
3 PAYMENTS TO PERSONS WHO ASSUME CUSTODY OF A RELATED CHILD PLACED  
4 IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTODY BY COURT ORDER; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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John O. Gilbert  
Secretary of the Senate