

By: Senator(s) Hopson

To: Judiciary, Division B;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2257

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMUNITY-BASED PLACEMENT FOR AT-RISK  
 2 CHILDREN PILOT PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR EARLY INTERVENTION  
 3 WITH AT-RISK CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM IS  
 4 LOCATED; TO ENACT STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED HOMES; TO PROVIDE  
 5 STANDARDS FOR DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN FOR  
 6 PLACEMENT UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE REASONABLE  
 7 REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES OF PLACEMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY-BASED  
 8 HOMES; TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR  
 9 SUPERVISION OF AND REPORTING BY THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED  
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
 13 43-21-901, Mississippi Code of 1972:

14 43-21-901. (1) There is hereby created a Community-Based  
 15 Placement for At-risk Children Pilot Program. The purpose of the  
 16 pilot program is to implement a plan for early intervention by the  
 17 youth court to reach at-risk children and place the children in  
 18 community-based homes under youth court supervision.

19 (2) (a) For the purposes of this section, "community home"  
 20 means a home designated by the youth court judge under this  
 21 section.



22           (b) In order to be designated as a community home, the  
23 home must have been approved as being both safe and an environment  
24 in which a child will thrive by either the court-appointed  
25 guardian ad litem or the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)  
26 before placement of any youth in the home.

27           (c) Homes designated as community homes will be  
28 recruited in the county in which the youth court has jurisdiction  
29 subject to the provisions of this subsection (2).

30           (3) (a) Children eligible for placement under the pilot  
31 program are those between the ages of ten (10) and fourteen (14)  
32 who have been determined by the youth court to be living in an  
33 environment that is either:

- 34                   (i) Abusive;  
35                   (ii) Neglectful; or  
36                   (iii) That contributes to the delinquency of the  
37 child.

38           (b) The factors to be used by the youth court in  
39 determining the at-risk status of the child may include, but not  
40 be limited to, the following:

- 41                   (i) Living with a single parent who has apparently  
42 either voluntarily or involuntarily lost control of the child;  
43                   (ii) Disciplinary problems at school;  
44                   (iii) Academic problems at school; or



45 (iv) Having older siblings from the same  
46 environment who have been adjudicated abused, neglected or  
47 delinquent.

48 (c) Placement under the program will require the  
49 consent of:

- 50 (i) The custodial parent;  
51 (ii) A person in loco parentis to the child; or  
52 (iii) The duly appointed guardian ad litem of the  
53 child.

54 (4) Compensation to the community homes for the expenses  
55 incurred in the placement shall be for a fair and reasonable  
56 amount as determined by the youth court.

57 (5) Funding for the pilot program shall consist of:

- 58 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature for the  
59 purposes of funding the pilot program;  
60 (b) Monies dedicated by action of the board of  
61 supervisors for the purposes of funding the pilot program;  
62 (c) Monies received from the federal government;  
63 (d) Donations;  
64 (e) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
65 provided by law; or  
66 (f) Any combination of funding set forth in this  
67 subsection.



68           (6) (a) Creation of a pilot program under this section  
69 shall be by order of the youth court of a county and solely  
70 contingent on committed funding as set forth in this section.

71           (b) Any youth court electing to operate a pilot program  
72 under this section shall report on the placements made and all  
73 expenses incurred under the pilot program to the Administrative  
74 Office of Courts not less than every six (6) months, and the  
75 Supreme Court shall ensure that the Legislature is informed of the  
76 status of the pilot program on at least an annual basis.

77           (c) The Administrative Office of Courts shall be  
78 responsible for certification of advance funding and continued  
79 monitoring of any Community-Based Placement for At-risk Children  
80 Program created as a pilot program under the authority of this  
81 section.

82           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
83 and after July 1, 2013.

