

By: Senator(s) Witherspoon, Jackson (32nd),
Simmons (13th), Simmons (12th), Barnett,
Jordan, Norwood, Jackson (11th), Butler,
Blount, Turner-Ford, Frazier

To: Housing; Judiciary,
Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2389

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN FUNDS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
3 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.



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

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

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

(iii) Temporary housing and food facilities.

(iv) Group support and peer counseling.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A domestic violence shelter shall not qualify for funds if it discriminates in its admissions or provision of services on



the basis of race, religion, color, age, marital status, national origin or ancestry.

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

(* * *5) The OAIV shall insure that no grant made with state funds is in an amount that would exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) inflated by a general CPI inflator to insure that the grant offers shelters the same buying power that a grant of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) provided in 1983.

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

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

(* * *8) No child shall be placed in any domestic violence shelter that receives state funding under these provisions of



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

76 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after July 1, 2021.

