

By: Representative Currie

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1407

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-26-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE TO THE
3 CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-26-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-26-11. (1) There is created in the State Treasury a
8 special fund to be known as the Children's Advocacy Centers Fund,
9 which shall be administered by the Office of the Attorney General.
10 The purpose of the fund shall be for training forensic
11 interviewers in child abuse and child sexual abuse cases, training
12 law enforcement officers and prosecutors about child abuse cases,
13 expanding the number of Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi
14 to underserved areas, and other related purposes. Monies in the
15 fund shall be expended by the Attorney General, upon appropriation
16 by the Legislature. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not
17 subject to fiscal-year limitations, and shall consist of:



18 (a) * * * Annual appropriations by the Legislature in
19 the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) each fiscal
20 year, beginning with the 2023 fiscal year, for the purposes of
21 funding the Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi;

22 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;

23 (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section
24 99-19-73;

25 (d) Monies received from the federal government;

26 (e) Donations; and

27 (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be
28 provided by law.

29 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
30 be known as the Mississippi Foster Care Fund, which shall be
31 administered by the Department of Child Protection Services. The
32 purpose of the fund shall be for supporting the services directly
33 provided to foster families and foster children by programs,
34 persons or entities pursuant to contracts and grants that comply
35 with Mississippi law, and for other related purposes. Monies in
36 the fund shall be expended by the department, upon appropriation
37 by the Legislature, only for the purposes stated in this
38 subsection, and only in such amounts as then exist in the fund.
39 The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal-year
40 limitations, and shall consist of:

41 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature for the
42 purposes of funding the Mississippi Foster Care Fund;



43 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;
44 (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section
45 99-19-73 for the Mississippi Foster Care Fund, ninety percent
46 (90%) of which shall be used directly for supporting the services
47 directly provided to foster families and foster children by
48 programs, persons or entities pursuant to contracts and grants
49 that comply with Mississippi law, and no more than ten percent
50 (10%) of which shall be used for administrative purposes;
51 (d) Monies received from the federal government;
52 (e) Donations; and
53 (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be
54 provided by law.

55 (3) From and after July 1, 2016, the expenses of the
56 Children's Advocacy Centers Fund Program shall be defrayed by
57 appropriation from the State General Fund, and all user charges
58 and fees authorized under this section shall be deposited into the
59 State General Fund as authorized by law and as determined by the
60 State Fiscal Officer.

61 (4) From and after July 1, 2016, no state agency shall
62 charge another state agency a fee, assessment, rent or other
63 charge for services or resources received by authority of this
64 section.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2022.

