

By: Representative Currie

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE FUND"
2 IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADMINISTER THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
4 PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO LOCAL UNITS OF
5 GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFITS THAT MAKE PARENTING RESOURCES AVAILABLE
6 TO FATHERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established in the State Treasury
9 the Mississippi Fatherhood Initiative Fund, to be administered by
10 the Mississippi State Department of Health, for the purpose of
11 providing grants to local units of government, nongovernmental
12 organizations, institutions of higher learning, community
13 colleges, public schools, and nonprofit entities that provide
14 resources to assist fathers. The monies in the fund shall be a
15 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal-year limitations, and shall
16 consist of:

- 17 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature;
- 18 (b) Any interest accrued to the fund;
- 19 (c) Donations from private or public sources;



20 (d) Monies received from such other sources as may be
21 otherwise provided by law.

22 (2) The State Department of Health shall establish the
23 criteria for the grants authorized by this section. The criteria
24 shall, at a minimum, require that the grantee's services:

25 (a) Assist fathers in finding and/or maintaining
26 employment,

27 (b) Manage child support obligations,

28 (c) Assist the transition of incarcerated fathers to
29 post incarceration housing and employment,

30 (d) Assist fathers in providing health care and health
31 insurance for the father's dependents,

32 (e) Train fathers in understanding child development
33 and enhancing parenting skills, and

34 (f) Use a case management system that is tailored to
35 the needs of the father being served.

36 (3) The State Department of Health shall develop
37 regulations, procedures and application forms to govern how grants
38 will be awarded under the provisions of this act, ensure that care
39 grants are equitably distributed, develop an audit process to
40 assure that grant monies are used to provide the services for
41 which they are approved.

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after July 1, 2023.

