

By: Senator(s) Parker

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2737

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN BENEFITS AND RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED TO
3 FICTIVE KIN OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT
4 OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 43-15-17. (1) The Department of Child Protection Services
9 is authorized to make such payments as may be appropriate for
10 supportive services to facilitate either the return of children to
11 their natural parents or their adoption, depending upon and
12 contingent upon the availability of the Department of Child
13 Protection Services securing or having sufficient funds to render
14 this supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be
15 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care or
16 kinship care payments made on behalf of his or her child, based
17 upon financial ability to pay, until such time as there is a
18 termination of parental rights regarding the child, or the child
19 is adopted.



20 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the * * *
21 Department of Child Protection Services, the department shall make
22 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and
23 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after
24 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds
25 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Child
26 Protection Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly
27 payment schedule in effect before that date shall be increased by
28 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with that minimum payment
29 not to preclude the department from increasing payments in later
30 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in
31 order for foster parents to receive the monthly payments
32 authorized under this subsection (2), the Department of Child
33 Protection Services shall require foster care placements to be
34 licensed as foster care homes and shall require prospective foster
35 parents to satisfactorily complete an appropriate training program
36 that emphasizes the goal of the foster care program to provide
37 stable foster placement until a permanency outcome is achieved.

38 (3) * * * For a child placed by the department of child
39 protection services in the care of any adult related by blood,
40 marriage or adoption within the third degree or who makes up the
41 family support system of the child, including adults related
42 beyond the third degree, godparents, friends of the family, or
43 other adults who have a strong familial bond with the child,
44 unless a child is placed in the care of a relative who is exempt



45 from foster care training requirements, the department shall make
46 monthly payments to defray the relative's expense of furnishing
47 room and board. The department's relative care payment shall be
48 in an amount up to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the
49 foster care board payment. The department may continue to make
50 those payments to the relative after the department relinquishes
51 legal custody of the child to the relative if the relative has
52 complied with foster care training requirements. Any such
53 payments for relative care shall be subject to specific
54 appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2024.

