

By: Representatives Waldo, Nelson, Anthony

To: Youth and Family Affairs

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-26-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO CLARIFY THAT LOCAL OFFICE SPACES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD  
3 PROTECTION SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED BY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS  
4 MUST BE ADEQUATE AND HABITABLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-26-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 43-26-11. (1) There shall be created local offices of the  
9 Department of Child Protection Services in those locations  
10 throughout the state as determined by the commissioner. It shall  
11 be the duty of the board of supervisors of each county in which a  
12 local office is located to provide adequate and habitable office  
13 space for the local offices.

14 The local office of the Department of Child Protection  
15 Services shall administer all forms of child welfare services with  
16 the exception of those administered by the Department of Human  
17 Services. The local offices shall comply with such regulations  
18 and submit such reports as may be established or required by the  
19 commissioner. Subject to the approval of the commissioner, the



20 local offices may cooperate with other departments, agencies and  
21 institutions, state and local, when so requested, in performing  
22 services in conformity with the provisions of this chapter.

23 (2) The Department of Child Protection Services may enter  
24 into a lease with each county board of supervisors in each county  
25 where a local office is located to allow the department to  
26 maximize the availability of federal funds. Fair market value for  
27 the county-furnished building will be established and the  
28 department shall pay the federal share for the rent to the county.  
29 All other expenses related to the operation of the local office  
30 shall be split between the department, providing the federal  
31 share, and the county, being responsible for the remainder or the  
32 state share. This includes, but is not limited to, electricity,  
33 water, gas, internet, and janitorial services and supplies. All  
34 maintenance and repairs of the local office shall be the  
35 responsibility of the county due to the prohibition of federal  
36 funds for improvements of real property.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after July 1, 2025.

