

By: Senator(s) Tollison (By Request)

To: Public Health and
WelfareCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2897

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE
2 DESIGNATED AS THE "MISSISSIPPI REDUCING OUT-OF-WEDLOCK PREGNANCIES
3 INCENTIVE GRANT FUND" FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO
4 COUNTIES TO REDUCE THEIR OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTH RATES; TO PROVIDE
5 THAT THE FUND SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
6 OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created in the State
9 Treasury a special fund to be known as the Mississippi Reducing
10 Out-Of-Wedlock Pregnancies Incentive Grant Fund into which shall
11 be deposited the federal funds available for grants for the
12 reduction in out-of-wedlock births awarded under the federal
13 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
14 1996 (Public Law 104-193) and such other money as the Legislature
15 may provide by appropriation. The money in the fund shall be used
16 for the purpose of providing financial incentives to counties to
17 reduce their out-of-wedlock birth rates as required by federal
18 welfare reform legislation. The fund shall be administered by the
19 Department of Human Services. Unexpended amounts remaining in the
20 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the State
21 General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the fund shall
22 be deposited to the credit of the fund; provided that any
23 unexpended amounts remaining in the fund on June 30, 2003, shall
24 lapse into the State General Fund.

25 (2) The Department of Human Services shall make annual
26 awards from the fund to the top five (5) counties with the
27 greatest reduction in out-of-wedlock births without an increase in
28 abortions in each of the following categories:

29 (a) One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in
30 counties which had fewer than two hundred fifty (250) total live
31 births;

32 (b) Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in
33 counties which had between two hundred fifty (250) and five
34 hundred (500) total live births;

35 (c) Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00)
36 in counties which had more than five hundred (500) total live
37 births.

38 (3) Determination of the recipient counties will be based on
39 an average of the previous two (2) years' out-of-wedlock birth
40 rates compared to the previous two-year average, and abortion
41 rates compared to the calendar year 1995 average as reported by
42 the State Department of Health. In order to qualify for the award
43 funds, the reduction in the out-of-wedlock birth rate shall be at
44 least three percent (3%).

45 (4) In order to be considered for an incentive award, the
46 county board of supervisors and/or the community action agency
47 must submit a plan for the county to the Department of Human
48 Services by October 1, 1999, and by October 1 of each subsequent
49 year.

50 (5) Each county receiving an incentive award will be subject
51 to the following requirements:

52 (a) The county must use the incentive award for some
53 type of youth enrichment, including, but not limited to,
54 continuing the implementation of the plan that reduced
55 out-of-wedlock pregnancies, education-related projects,
56 recreational facilities, or a summer work program; and

57 (b) The county must submit a report to the Department
58 of Human Services on the methods used to achieve the reduction in
59 out-of-wedlock births, and submit a separate report to the
60 department explaining how the incentive award was spent.

61 (6) If the fund is not adequate to make the distributions

62 presented under this section, the department may award funds to
63 counties on a reduced pro-rata basis.

64 (7) This section shall stand repealed from and after June
65 30, 2003.

66 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 1999.