

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S.B. No. 2897: Reduction of out-of-wedlock birth rates; create county incentive fund.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.

2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 bonuses 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 December 31, 2003,
24 shall 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

counties which had fewer than two hundred fifty (250) total live births;

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

(c) Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in counties which had more than five hundred (500) total live births.

(3) Determination of the recipient counties will be based on an average of the previous two (2) years' out-of-wedlock birth rates compared to the previous two-year average, and the number of abortions performed on county residents compared to the number for calendar year 1998 as reported by the State Department of Health.

In order to qualify for the award funds, the reduction in the out-of-wedlock birth rate shall be at least three percent (3%).

(4) In order to be considered for an incentive award, the county board of supervisors shall appoint an advisory committee the members of which shall include, but not be limited to, the director of the county health department, the director of the county department of human services, the superintendent of each public school district in the county, the director of the community action agency in the county, the director of the county primary health care association, and the county agent for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, or the designees of any of these persons, which shall develop a plan for the county and submit the plan to the Department of Human Services by October 1, 1999, and by October 1 of each subsequent year.

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

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

(b) The county must submit a report to the Department

64 of Human Services on the methods used to achieve the reduction in
65 out-of-wedlock births, and submit a separate report to the
66 department explaining how the incentive award was spent.

67 (6) If the fund is not adequate to make the distributions
68 presented under this section, the department may award funds to
69 counties on a reduced pro-rata basis.

70 (7) Funds shall be distributed each year following the
71 release of the vital statistics report of the Mississippi State
72 Department of Health. The first disbursement from the fund shall
73 be made after such report is released which shows the statistics
74 for calendar year 2000.

75 (8) This section shall stand repealed from and after June
76 30, 2003.

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

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X_____
Alan Nunnelee

X_____
Bobby Moody

X_____
Neely C. Carlton

X_____
Reta Holden

X_____
Jim Bean

X_____
John Read