

By: Perkins, Whittington

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 456

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM
3 MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN ITS CUSTODY FOR
4 EACH TYPE OF PROVIDER; TO REQUIRE THOSE PAYMENTS TO BE EQUAL FOR
5 EACH PROVIDER BASED UPON THE LEVEL OF SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

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

21 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or
22 county departments of human services, the department shall make
23 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and

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

39 (3) From and after July 1, 2000, the department shall define
40 the types of child care providers contracting with the department
41 for services to children placed in its custody, and shall
42 establish a uniform monthly payment schedule per child for each
43 type of provider. From and after July 1, 2000, the monthly
44 payments to all providers shall be the same for each child
45 receiving the same level of services.

46 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2000.