

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2522

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO MAKE PAYMENTS FOR
3 THE SUPPORT OF FOSTER CHILDREN IN CUSTODIAL RELATIVE CARE; AND FOR
4 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 State Department of Human Services is
9 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 State Department of Human
13 Services' securing or having sufficient funds to render this
14 supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be
15 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care
16 payments made on behalf of his or her child, based upon financial
17 ability to pay, until such time as there is a termination of
18 parental rights regarding the child, or the child is adopted.

19 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or
20 county departments of human services, the department shall make
21 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and
22 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after
23 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds
24 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Human
25 Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly payment
26 schedule in effect prior to that date shall be increased by One
27 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with said minimum payment not
28 to preclude the department from increasing payments in subsequent



29 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in
30 order for foster parents to receive such monthly payments
31 authorized under this subsection (2), the Department of Human
32 Services shall require foster care placements to be licensed as
33 foster care homes and shall require prospective foster parents to
34 satisfactorily complete an appropriate training program which
35 emphasizes the goal of the foster care program to provide stable
36 foster placement until a permanency outcome is achieved.

37 (3) Notwithstanding the above and subject to the
38 availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor, the
39 department is authorized to make monthly payments for the support
40 of foster children in licensed or unlicensed custodial relative
41 care.

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after July 1, 2002.

