

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2349

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-17-12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE COST OF COURT-ORDERED HOME STUDIES BY SOCIAL
3 WORKERS SHALL BE PAID BY THE PARENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
4 SERVICES IF ORDERED BY THE COURT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-17-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 93-17-12. In any child custody matter hereafter filed in any
9 chancery or county court in which temporary or permanent custody
10 has already been placed with a parent or guardian, the court shall
11 impose a fee for any court-ordered home study performed by the
12 Department of Human Services. The fee shall be assessed upon
13 either party or upon both parties in the court's discretion. The
14 minimum fee imposed shall be not less than Three Hundred Fifty
15 Dollars (\$350.00) for each household on which a home study is
16 performed. The fee shall be paid directly to the Mississippi
17 Department of Human Services prior to the home study being
18 conducted by the department. The judge may order the fee be paid
19 by one or both of the parents or guardian. If the court
20 determines that both parents or the guardian are unable to pay the
21 fee, the judge shall waive the fee and the cost of the home study
22 shall be defrayed by the Department of Human Services.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after July 1, 2003.

