

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2845

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 PROVIDE THAT IN ANY COUNTY IN WHICH THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF  
 3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS PROVIDING PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
 4 TO ABUSED CHILDREN, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
 5 SERVICES TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH SUCH COUNTY DESIRING TO  
 6 PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES; TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-7 AND  
 7 43-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO USE  
 8 CERTAIN FUNDS TO PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ABUSED CHILDREN;  
 9 TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 43-15-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972; TO  
 10 AMEND SECTION 43-15-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE  
 11 COUNTIES AND CITIES TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE  
 12 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR  
 13 ABUSED CHILDREN; TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE YOUTH COURT TO  
 14 APPROVE SUCH AGREEMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds that due to severe budget  
 17 cuts the Department of Human Services has reduced the number of  
 18 social workers assigned to help abuse and neglected children by  
 19 sixty percent (60%). These vulnerable children are not receiving  
 20 the protective services that are crucial to their survival and  
 21 development. Many counties and cities have expressed a desire to  
 22 provide protective services to these abused and neglected  
 23 children. A cooperative effort granting counties and cities the  
 24 authority and power to provide such services is necessary to  
 25 protect the health and safety of these most vulnerable children  
 26 and it is in the public interest to require such a joint effort  
 27 between the Department of Human Services and local entities.

28 **SECTION 2.** Section 43-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 29 amended as follows:

30 43-15-5. (1) The Department of Human Services shall have  
 31 authority and it shall be its duty to administer or supervise all  
 32 public child welfare services, including those services,  
 33 responsibilities, duties and powers with which the county



34 departments of human services are charged and empowered in this  
35 article; administer and supervise the licensing and inspection of  
36 all private child placing agencies; provide for the care of  
37 dependent and neglected children in foster family homes or in  
38 institutions, supervise the care of such children and those of  
39 illegitimate birth; supervise the importation of children; and  
40 supervise the operation of all state institutions for children.  
41 The Department of Human Services shall be authorized to purchase  
42 hospital and medical insurance coverage for those children placed  
43 in foster care by the state or county departments of human  
44 services who are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance  
45 under the Mississippi Medicaid Law. The Department of Human  
46 Services shall be further authorized to purchase burial or life  
47 insurance not exceeding One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
48 (\$1,500.00) for those children placed in foster care by the state  
49 or county departments of human services. All insurance coverage  
50 authorized herein may be purchased with any funds other than state  
51 funds available to the Department of Human Services, including  
52 those funds available to the child which are administered by the  
53 department.

54 (2) Any person, partnership, group, corporation,  
55 organization or association desiring to operate a child  
56 residential home, as defined in Section 43-16-3, may make  
57 application for a license for such a facility to the Department of  
58 Human Services on the application forms furnished for this purpose  
59 by the department. If an applicant meets the published rules and  
60 regulations of the department regarding minimum standards for a  
61 child residential home, then the applicant shall be granted a  
62 license by the department.

63 (3) In any county in which there is a shortage of social  
64 workers to provide support and protective services to abused and  
65 neglected children, it shall be the duty of the Department of  
66 Human Services to consult, coordinate and enter into an agreement



67 with any county or city within the county that petitions to  
68 provide such services under Section 43-15-51.

69 **SECTION 3.** Section 43-15-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
70 amended as follows:

71 43-15-7. The county department of public welfare is hereby  
72 authorized to provide protective services for children as will  
73 conserve home life; assume responsibility for the care and support  
74 of dependent children needing public care away from their homes;  
75 place children found by the department to be dependent or without  
76 proper care in suitable institutions or private homes, and  
77 cooperate with public and private institutions and agencies in  
78 placing such children in suitable institutions or private homes;  
79 accept custody or guardianship, through one of its designated  
80 employees, of any child, when appointed as custodian or guardian  
81 in the manner provided by law.

82 The board of supervisors in each county is hereby empowered,  
83 in its discretion, to set aside and appropriate out of the tax  
84 levied and collected to support the poor of the county or out of  
85 the county general fund necessary monies to be administered by the  
86 county department of public welfare to carry out the provisions of  
87 this section.

88 The board of supervisors in any county which petitions to  
89 provide protective services for abused and neglected children is  
90 hereby empowered, in its discretion, to set aside and appropriate  
91 out of the tax levied and collected to the county general fund  
92 necessary monies to be administered by the county to provide  
93 protective services to the abused and neglected children of the  
94 county.

95 **SECTION 4.** Section 43-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
96 amended as follows:

97 43-15-11. (1) The board of supervisors of any county and/or  
98 the mayor and board of commissioners of any city and/or the mayor  
99 and board of aldermen of any municipality in this state are hereby



100 authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to expend out of  
101 any monies in their respective treasuries, to be drawn by warrant  
102 thereon, a sum or sums of money not exceeding a total of  
103 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) annually per million dollars  
104 (\$1,000,000.00) of the assessed valuation of the real and personal  
105 property thereof for the purpose of providing for the care,  
106 support and maintenance of homeless or destitute children of any  
107 county or municipality of this state who are supported, cared for,  
108 maintained and placed for adoption by any children's home society  
109 which operates over and serves the entire state of Mississippi,  
110 and which is approved and licensed by the Mississippi Department  
111 of Public Welfare.

112       (2) The board of supervisors in any county which petitions  
113 to provide protective services for abused and neglected children  
114 is hereby empowered, in its discretion, to set aside and  
115 appropriate out of the monies authorized under this section to  
116 provide protective services to the abused and neglected children  
117 of the county.

118       (3) The authority granted in this section is supplemental of  
119 and in addition to all existing authority for the expenditure of  
120 funds by such boards of supervisors and municipal governing  
121 authorities.

122       **SECTION 5.** Section 43-15-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
123 brought forward as follows:

124       43-15-13. (1) For purposes of this section, "children"  
125 means persons found within the state who are under the age of  
126 twenty-one (21) years, and who were placed in the custody of the  
127 Department of Human Services by the youth court of the appropriate  
128 county.

129       (2) The Department of Human Services shall establish a  
130 foster care placement program for children whose custody lies with  
131 the department, with the following objectives:



132           (a) Protecting and promoting the health, safety and  
133 welfare of children;

134           (b) Preventing the unnecessary separation of children  
135 from their families by identifying family problems, assisting  
136 families in resolving their problems and preventing the breakup of  
137 the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and  
138 possible when the child can be cared for at home without  
139 endangering the child's health and safety;

140           (c) Remediating or assisting in the solution of problems  
141 which may result in the neglect, abuse, exploitation or  
142 delinquency of children;

143           (d) Restoring to their families children who have been  
144 removed, by the provision of services to the child and the  
145 families when the child can be cared for at home without  
146 endangering the child's health and safety;

147           (e) Placing children in suitable adoptive homes  
148 approved by a licensed adoption agency or licensed social worker,  
149 in cases where restoration to the biological family is not safe,  
150 possible or appropriate;

151           (f) Assuring safe and adequate care of children away  
152 from their homes, in cases where the child cannot be returned home  
153 or cannot be placed for adoption. At the time of placement, the  
154 department shall implement concurrent planning, as described in  
155 subsection (8) of this section, so that permanency may occur at  
156 the earliest opportunity. Consideration of possible failure or  
157 delay of reunification should be given, to the end that the  
158 placement made is the best available placement to provide  
159 permanency for the child; and

160           (g) Providing a social worker or social work team for a  
161 family and child throughout the implementation of their permanent  
162 living arrangement plan. Wherever feasible, the same social  
163 worker or social work team shall remain on the case until the  
164 child is no longer under the jurisdiction of the youth court.



165           (3) The State Department of Human Services shall administer  
166 a system of individualized plans and reviews once every six (6)  
167 months for each child under its custody within the State of  
168 Mississippi, each child who has been adjudged a neglected,  
169 abandoned or abused child and whose custody was changed by court  
170 order as a result of such adjudication, and each public or private  
171 facility licensed by the department. The State Department of  
172 Human Services administrative review shall be completed on each  
173 child within the first three (3) months and a foster care review  
174 once every six (6) months after the child's initial  
175 forty-eight-hour shelter hearing. Such system shall be for the  
176 purpose of enhancing potential family life for the child by the  
177 development of individual plans to return the child to its natural  
178 parent or parents, or to refer the child to the appropriate court  
179 for termination of parental rights and placement in a permanent  
180 relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive home. The goal  
181 of the State Department of Human Services shall be to return the  
182 child to its natural parent(s) or refer the child to the  
183 appropriate court for termination of parental rights and placement  
184 in a permanent relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive  
185 home within the time periods specified in this subsection or in  
186 subsection (4) of this section. In furthering this goal, the  
187 department shall establish policy and procedures designed to  
188 appropriately place children in permanent homes, such policy to  
189 include a system of reviews for all children in foster care, as  
190 follows: foster care counselors in the department shall make all  
191 possible contact with the child's natural parent(s) and any  
192 interested relative for the first two (2) months following the  
193 child's entry into the foster care system. For any child who was  
194 in foster care before July 1, 1998, and has been in foster care  
195 for fifteen (15) of the last twenty-two (22) months regardless of  
196 whether the foster care was continuous for all of those twenty-two  
197 (22) months, the department shall file a petition to terminate the



198 parental rights of the child's parents. The time period starts to  
199 run from the date the court makes a finding of abuse and/or  
200 neglect or sixty (60) days from when the child was removed from  
201 his or her home, whichever is earlier. The department can choose  
202 not to file a termination of parental rights petition if the  
203 following apply:

204 (a) The child is being cared for by a relative; and/or

205 (b) The department has documented compelling and  
206 extraordinary reasons why termination of parental rights would not  
207 be in the best interests of the child. Prior to granting or  
208 denying a request by the department for an extension of time for  
209 filing a termination of parental rights action, the court shall  
210 receive a written report on the progress which a parent of such  
211 child has made in treatment, to be made to the court in writing by  
212 a mental health/substance abuse therapist or counselor.

213 (4) In the case of any child who is placed in foster care on  
214 or after July 1, 1998, except in cases of aggravated circumstances  
215 prescribed in Section 43-21-603(7)(c) or (d), the child's natural  
216 parent(s) will have a reasonable time to be determined by the  
217 court, which shall not exceed a six-month period of time, in which  
218 to meet the service agreement with the department for the benefit  
219 of the child unless the department has documented extraordinary  
220 and compelling reasons for extending the time period in the best  
221 interest of the child. If this agreement has not been  
222 satisfactorily met, simultaneously the child will be referred to  
223 the appropriate court for termination of parental rights and  
224 placement in a permanent relative's home, adoptive home or a  
225 foster/adoptive home. For children under the age of three (3)  
226 years, termination of parental rights shall be initiated within  
227 six (6) months, unless the department has documented compelling  
228 and extraordinary circumstances, and placement in a permanent  
229 relative's home, adoptive home or foster/adoptive home within two  
230 (2) months. For children who have been abandoned pursuant to the



231 provisions of Section 97-5-1, termination of parental rights shall  
232 be initiated within thirty (30) days and placement in an adoptive  
233 home shall be initiated without necessity for placement in a  
234 foster home. The department need not initiate termination of  
235 parental rights proceedings where the child has been placed in  
236 durable legal custody or long-term or formalized foster care by a  
237 court of competent jurisdiction.

238 (5) The foster care review once every six (6) months shall  
239 be conducted by the youth court or its designee(s), and/or by  
240 personnel within the State Department of Human Services or by a  
241 designee or designees of the department and may include others  
242 appointed by the department, and the review shall include at a  
243 minimum an evaluation of the child based on the following:

244 (a) The extent of the care and support provided by the  
245 parents or parent, while the child is in temporary custody;

246 (b) The extent of communication with the child by  
247 parents, parent or guardian;

248 (c) The degree of compliance by the agency and the  
249 parents with the social service plan established;

250 (d) The methods of achieving the goal and the plan  
251 establishing a permanent home for the child;

252 (e) Social services offered and/or utilized to  
253 facilitate plans for establishing a permanent home for the child;  
254 and

255 (f) Relevant testimony and recommendations from the  
256 foster parent of the child, the grandparents of the child, the  
257 guardian ad litem of the child, representatives of any private  
258 care agency which has cared for the child, the social worker  
259 assigned to the case, and any other relevant testimony pertaining  
260 to the case.

261 Each child's review plan once every six (6) months shall be  
262 filed with the court which awarded custody and shall be made  
263 available to natural parents or foster parents upon approval of





264 the court. The court shall make a finding as to the degree of  
265 compliance by the agency and the parent(s) with the child's social  
266 service plan. The court also shall find that the child's health  
267 and safety are the paramount concern. In the interest of the  
268 child, the court shall, where appropriate, initiate proceedings on  
269 its own motion. The State Department of Human Services shall  
270 report to the Legislature as to the number of such children, the  
271 findings of the foster care review board and relevant statistical  
272 information in foster care in a semiannual report to the  
273 Legislature to be submitted to the Joint Oversight Committee of  
274 the Department of Human Services. The report shall not refer to  
275 the specific name of any child in foster care.

276 (6) The State Department of Human Services, with the  
277 cooperation and assistance of the State Department of Health,  
278 shall develop and implement a training program for foster care  
279 parents to indoctrinate them as to their proper responsibilities  
280 upon a child's entry into their foster care. The program shall  
281 provide a minimum of twelve (12) clock hours of training. The  
282 foster care training program shall be satisfactorily completed by  
283 such foster care parents prior to or within ninety (90) days after  
284 child placement with such parent. Record of such foster care  
285 parent's training program participation shall be filed with the  
286 court as part of a foster care child's review plan once every six  
287 (6) months.

288 (7) When the Department of Human Services is considering  
289 placement of a child in a foster home and when the department  
290 deems it to be in the best interest of the child, the department  
291 shall give first priority to placing the child in the home of one  
292 (1) of the child's relatives within the third degree, as computed  
293 by the civil law rule. In placing the child in a relative's home,  
294 the department may waive any rule, regulation or policy applicable  
295 to placement in foster care that would otherwise require the child  
296 to have a separate bed or bedroom or have a bedroom of a certain



297 size, if placing the child in a relative's home would be in the  
298 best interest of the child and such requirements cannot be met in  
299 the relative's home.

300 (8) The Legislature recognizes that the best interests of  
301 the child require that the child be placed in the most permanent  
302 living arrangement as soon as is practicably possible. To achieve  
303 this goal, the Department of Human Services is directed to conduct  
304 concurrent planning so that a permanent living arrangement may  
305 occur at the earliest opportunity. Permanent living arrangements  
306 may include prevention of placement of a child outside the home of  
307 the family when the child can be cared for at home without  
308 endangering the child's health or safety; reunification with the  
309 family, when safe and appropriate, if temporary placement is  
310 necessary; or movement of the child toward the most permanent  
311 living arrangement and permanent legal status. When a child is  
312 placed in foster care or relative care, the department shall first  
313 ensure and document that reasonable efforts were made to prevent  
314 or eliminate the need to remove the child from the child's home.  
315 The department's first priority shall be to make reasonable  
316 efforts to reunify the family when temporary placement of the  
317 child occurs or shall request a finding from the court that  
318 reasonable efforts are not appropriate or have been unsuccessful.  
319 A decision to place a child in foster care or relative care shall  
320 be made with consideration of the child's health, safety and best  
321 interests. At the time of placement, consideration should also be  
322 given so that if reunification fails or is delayed, the placement  
323 made is the best available placement to provide a permanent living  
324 arrangement for the child. The department shall adopt rules  
325 addressing concurrent planning for reunification and a permanent  
326 living arrangement. The department shall consider the following  
327 factors when determining appropriateness of concurrent planning:

328 (a) The likelihood of prompt reunification;

329 (b) The past history of the family;



330 (c) The barriers to reunification being addressed by  
331 the family;

332 (d) The level of cooperation of the family;

333 (e) The foster parents' willingness to work with the  
334 family to reunite;

335 (f) The willingness and ability of the foster family or  
336 relative placement to provide an adoptive home or long-term  
337 placement;

338 (g) The age of the child; and

339 (h) Placement of siblings.

340 (9) If the department has placed a child in foster care or  
341 relative care pursuant to a court order, the department may not  
342 change the child's placement unless the department specifically  
343 documents to the court that the current placement is unsafe or  
344 unsuitable or that another placement is in the child's best  
345 interests unless the new placement is in an adoptive home or other  
346 permanent placement. Except in emergency circumstances as  
347 determined by the department or where the court orders placement  
348 of the child pursuant to Section 43-21-303, the foster parents,  
349 grandparents or other relatives of the child shall be given an  
350 opportunity to contest the specific reasons documented by the  
351 department at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to any such  
352 departure, and the court may conduct a review of such placement  
353 unless the new placement is in an adoptive home or other permanent  
354 placement. When a child is returned to foster care or relative  
355 care, the former foster parents or relative placement shall be  
356 given the prior right of return placement in order to eliminate  
357 additional trauma to the child.

358 (10) The Department of Human Services shall provide the  
359 foster parents, grandparents or other relatives with at least a  
360 seventy-two-hour notice of departure for any child placed in their  
361 foster care or relative care, except in emergency circumstances as  
362 determined by the department or where the court orders placement



363 of the child pursuant to Section 43-21-303. The parent/legal  
364 guardian, grandparents of the child, guardian ad litem and the  
365 court exercising jurisdiction shall be notified in writing when  
366 the child leaves foster care or relative care placement,  
367 regardless of whether the child's departure was planned or  
368 unplanned. The only exceptions to giving a written notice to the  
369 parent(s) are when a parent has voluntarily released the child for  
370 adoption or the parent's legal rights to the child have been  
371 terminated through the appropriate court with jurisdiction.

372 (11) The Department of Human Services shall extend the  
373 following rights to foster care parents:

374 (a) A clear understanding of their role as foster  
375 parents and the roles of the birth parent(s) and the placement  
376 agency in respect to the child in care;

377 (b) Respect, consideration, trust and value as a family  
378 who is making an important contribution to the agency's  
379 objectives;

380 (c) Involvement in all the agency's crucial decisions  
381 regarding the foster child as team members who have pertinent  
382 information based on their day-to-day knowledge of the child in  
383 care;

384 (d) Support from the social worker in efforts to do a  
385 better day-to-day job in caring for the child and in working to  
386 achieve the agency's objectives for the child and the birth family  
387 through provision of:

388 (i) Pertinent information about the child and the  
389 birth family.

390 (ii) Help in using appropriate resources to meet  
391 the child's needs.

392 (iii) Direct interviews between the social worker  
393 and the child, previously discussed and understood by the foster  
394 parents;



- 395           (e) The opportunity to develop confidence in making  
396 day-to-day decisions in regard to the child;
- 397           (f) The opportunity to learn and grow in their vocation  
398 through planned foster parent education;
- 399           (g) The opportunity to be heard regarding agency  
400 practices that they may question; and
- 401           (h) Reimbursement for costs of the foster child's care  
402 in the form of a board payment based on the age of the foster  
403 child as prescribed in Section 43-15-17.

404           (12) The Department of Human Services shall require the  
405 following responsibilities from participating foster parents:

- 406           (a) Understanding the department's function in regard  
407 to the foster care program and related social service programs;
- 408           (b) Sharing with the department any information which  
409 may contribute to the care of foster children;
- 410           (c) Functioning within the established goals and  
411 objectives to improve the general welfare of the foster child;
- 412           (d) Recognizing the problems in foster home placement  
413 that will require professional advice and assistance and that such  
414 help should be utilized to its full potential;
- 415           (e) Recognizing that the foster family will be one of  
416 the primary resources for preparing a child for any future plans  
417 that are made, including return to birth parent(s), termination of  
418 parental rights or reinstitutionalization;
- 419           (f) Expressing their view of agency practices which  
420 relate to the foster child with the appropriate staff member;
- 421           (g) Understanding that all information shared with the  
422 foster parents about the child and his/her birth parent(s) must be  
423 held in the strictest of confidence;
- 424           (h) Cooperating with any plan to reunite the foster  
425 child with his birth family and work with the birth family to  
426 achieve this goal; and



427 (i) Attending dispositional review hearings and  
428 termination of parental rights hearings conducted by a court of  
429 competent jurisdiction, or providing their recommendations to the  
430 court in writing.

431 **SECTION 6.** Section 43-15-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
432 amended as follows:

433 43-15-51. (1) (a) The district attorneys or the Department  
434 of Human Services may initiate formal cooperative agreements with  
435 the appropriate agencies to create multidisciplinary child  
436 protection teams in order to implement a coordinated  
437 multidisciplinary team approach to intervention in reports  
438 involving alleged severe or potential felony child physical or  
439 sexual abuse, exploitation, or maltreatment. The  
440 multidisciplinary team also may be known as a child abuse task  
441 force. The purpose of the team or task force shall be to assist  
442 in the evaluation and investigation of reports and to provide  
443 consultation and coordination for agencies involved in child  
444 protection cases. The agencies to be included as members of the  
445 multidisciplinary team are: the district attorney's office, city  
446 and county law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, youth court  
447 prosecutors, and other agencies as appropriate.

448 (b) Any county in which there is a shortage of social  
449 workers to provide the support and protective services for abused  
450 and neglected children may initiate a formal cooperative agreement  
451 with the Department of Human Services to provide support and  
452 protective services for such abused and neglected children. It  
453 shall be the duty of the Department of Human Services to enter  
454 into such agreement as authorized by court order from the  
455 appropriate youth court. Such county or city within the county  
456 shall petition the youth court for the agreement in the same  
457 manner as for the multidisciplinary child abuse teams. The county  
458 or city may also form multidisciplinary child abuse teams to  
459 assist in providing such support and protective services.



460 (2) To implement the multidisciplinary child abuse team, the  
461 team or task force must be authorized by court order from the  
462 appropriate youth court. The court order will designate which  
463 agencies will participate in the cooperative multidisciplinary  
464 team.

465 (3) (a) Teams created under this section may invite other  
466 persons to serve on the team who have knowledge of and experience  
467 in child abuse and neglect matters. These persons may include  
468 licensed mental and physical health practitioners and physicians,  
469 dentists, representatives of the district attorney's office and  
470 the Attorney General's office, experts in the assessment and  
471 treatment of substance abuse or sexual abuse, the victim  
472 assistance coordinator of the district attorney's office and staff  
473 members of a child advocacy center.

474 (b) (i) A child advocacy center means an agency that  
475 advocates on behalf of children alleged to have been abused and  
476 assists in the coordination of the investigation of child abuse by  
477 providing a location for forensic interviews and promoting the  
478 coordination of services for children alleged to have been abused.  
479 A child advocacy center provides services that include, but are  
480 not limited to, forensic medical examinations, mental health and  
481 related support services, court advocacy, consultation, training  
482 for social workers, law enforcement training, and child abuse  
483 multidisciplinary teams, and staffing of multidisciplinary teams.

484 (ii) Child advocacy centers may provide a  
485 video-taped forensic interview of the child in a child friendly  
486 environment or separate building. The purpose of the video-taped  
487 forensic interview is to prevent further trauma to a child in the  
488 investigation and prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse  
489 cases. Child advocacy centers can also assist child victims by  
490 providing therapeutic counseling subsequent to the interview by a  
491 qualified therapist. Child advocacy centers can also assist law  
492 enforcement and prosecutors by acquainting child victim witnesses



493 and their parents or guardians to the courtroom through child  
494 court school programs.

495 (4) A team or task force created under this section shall  
496 review records on cases referred to the team by the Department of  
497 Human Services or law enforcement or the district attorney's  
498 office. The team shall meet at least monthly.

499 (5) No person shall disclose information obtained from a  
500 meeting of the multidisciplinary team unless necessary to comply  
501 with Department of Human Services' regulations or conduct and  
502 proceeding in youth court or criminal court proceedings or as  
503 authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction.

504 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
505 and after its passage.

