

By: Representative Hines

To: Juvenile Justice;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1541

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMUNITY SERVICES
2 ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING AND MAKING
3 RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AVAILABLE
4 TO AT-RISK YOUTH; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, research indicates that the best hope for preventing
6 child abuse, neglect, juvenile crime, and for reducing the rate of
7 recidivism in juvenile delinquency and later crime, is to employ a
8 comprehensive strategy involving a range of prevention,
9 assessment, early intervention, treatment services, as well as
10 progressive sanctions: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Juvenile Justice
13 Community Services Advisory Board, the duties of which shall be to
14 study and make recommendations concerning the community based
15 services available to Mississippi's at-risk youth.

16 (2) The advisory board shall consist of twelve (12) members
17 as follows:

18 (a) The Director of the Office of Youth Services of the
19 Department of Human Services or his or her designee;

20 (b) The State Superintendent of Public Education or
21 his or her designee;

22 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of Mental
23 Health or his designee;

24 (d) One (1) youth court counselor appointed by the
25 Mississippi Council of Youth Court Judges;

26 (e) One (1) representative from the Mississippi
27 Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Coalition;

28 (f) One (1) representative from the Mississippi
29 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
30 (NAACP);

31 (g) One (1) representative from Citizens for Quality
32 Education;

33 (h) One (1) representative from Citizens for a Better
34 Greenville;

35 (i) One (1) representative from Junior Achievement of
36 Mississippi, Inc.;

37 (j) One (1) youth who has received community based
38 services that are currently available to Mississippi's at-risk
39 youth, appointed by the chairman of the House of Representatives
40 Juvenile Justice Committee; and

41 (k) Two (2) parents of youth who have received
42 community based services that are currently available to
43 Mississippi's at-risk youth, appointed by the Chairman of the
44 House of Representatives Juvenile Justice Committee.

45 (3) The advisory board shall study and make recommendations
46 related to the following:

47 (a) The manner in which youth are referred to the youth
48 court system;

49 (b) The availability and quality of delinquency
50 prevention, assessment, early intervention and treatment services
51 for at-risk youth, including adolescent offender programs, drug
52 court programs and alternative schools;

53 (c) The alternatives to incarceration available to
54 youth courts for delinquent youth who do not pose a threat to the
55 public; and

56 (d) Other related issues approved by a majority of
57 advisory board members.

58 (4) At its first meeting, the advisory board shall elect a
59 chairperson and vice chairperson from its membership and shall
60 adopt rules for transacting its business and keeping its records.

61 (5) If sufficient funds are available to the advisory board
62 for that purpose, members of the advisory board may receive
63 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged in
64 official business of the advisory board in accordance with Section
65 25-3-41.

66 (6) Before December 1, 2004, the advisory board shall make a
67 report of its work and recommendations, and it shall submit a copy
68 of the report to the House of Representatives Juvenile Justice
69 Committee and the Governor.

70 (7) After the presentation of its report to the Legislature
71 and the Governor, the advisory board shall be dissolved.

72 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 2004.