

By: Representative Carlton

To: Judiciary B;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 976

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT ON OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN
2 TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN ADVOCACY CENTERS; TO CREATE A
3 SPECIAL FUND; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) In addition to any monetary penalties and
7 any other penalties imposed by law, there shall be imposed and
8 collected from each person upon whom a court imposes a fine or
9 other penalty for any violation of Sections 97-3-65, 97-5-1 et
10 seq. and 97-3-7 when committed against a minor an assessment of
11 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) which shall be deposited into a
12 special fund which is hereby created in the State Treasury which
13 shall be known as the Children Advocacy Fund.

14 (2) The purpose of the fund shall be to provide funding for
15 children advocacy centers certified by the Attorney General. The
16 Attorney General shall develop a formula for distributing the
17 funds to centers throughout the state. The fund shall be a
18 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal-year limitations and shall
19 consist of:

- 20 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature;
- 21 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;
- 22 (c) Monies received under the provisions of subsection (1)
- 23 of this section;
- 24 (d) Monies received from the federal government; and
- 25 (e) Monies received from such other sources as may be
- 26 provided by law.

27 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2005.