

By: Representative Scott

To: Juvenile Justice

HOUSE BILL NO. 863

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-21-627, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A YOUTH OFFENDER OF A YOUTH COURT WORK PROGRAM
3 MUST TAKE A DRUG TEST AND SHALL PAY THE ACTUAL COST OF THE TEST;
4 TO REQUIRE YOUTH WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR DRUGS TO BE REFERRED TO A
5 DRUG REHABILITATION TREATMENT PROGRAM AND COUNSELING; TO AUTHORIZE
6 THE YOUTH COURT TO WORK WITH CERTAIN ENTITIES TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY
7 SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO PERFORM
8 COMMUNITY SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-21-627, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 43-21-627. (1) Each youth court is authorized to establish a
13 youth court work program as an alternative disposition for
14 nonviolent offenders. The youth court work program shall be used
15 only for first time nonviolent youth offenders. Offenders
16 participating in the program must take a drug test, and the
17 parent, guardian or custodian shall pay the actual cost of the
18 test, unless the court specifically finds that the parent,
19 guardian or custodian is unable to pay. If a youth offender tests
20 positive for drugs, he or she shall be referred to a drug
21 rehabilitation treatment program and counseling.

22 (2) The youth court may work with local governmental
23 entities, local nonprofit and faith based organizations to provide
24 community service opportunities for youth in the program who may
25 have been ordered to perform community service. The court shall
26 solicit and approve the assistance of volunteers from the area
27 served by the youth court, including business and community
28 volunteers. The court may require a nonviolent youth offender to
29 work for a minimum of six (6) months with a court approved
30 volunteer as part or all of a sentence imposed by the court. The

31 volunteers shall provide a working environment as mentors to
32 provide guidance and support and to teach the youth offender job
33 skills. Each youth offender and volunteer shall be under the
34 supervision of the court and shall make regular reports to the
35 court as required by order of the court. If a youth offender
36 violates the terms and conditions imposed by the court while
37 participating in the youth court work program, the court is
38 authorized to remove the offender from the program and impose any
39 other disposition authorized by law.

40 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2006.