

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and  
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2669

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PAY KINSHIP CARE  
3 PAYMENTS TO PERSONS WHO ASSUME CUSTODY OF A RELATED CHILD PLACED  
4 IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTODY BY COURT ORDER; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 43-15-17. (1) The State Department of Human Services is  
10 authorized to make such payments as may be appropriate for  
11 supportive services to facilitate either the return of children to  
12 their natural parents or their adoption, depending upon and  
13 contingent upon the availability of the State Department of Human  
14 Services' securing or having sufficient funds to render this  
15 supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be  
16 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care or  
17 kinship care payments made on behalf of his or her child, based  
18 upon financial ability to pay, until such time as there is a  
19 termination of parental rights regarding the child, or the child  
20 is adopted.

21 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the state or  
22 county departments of human services, the department shall make  
23 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and  
24 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after  
25 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds  
26 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Human  
27 Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly payment  
28 schedule in effect prior to that date shall be increased by One

29 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with said minimum payment not  
30 to preclude the department from increasing payments in subsequent  
31 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in  
32 order for foster parents to receive such monthly payments  
33 authorized under this subsection (2), the Department of Human  
34 Services shall require foster care placements to be licensed as  
35 foster care homes and shall require prospective foster parents to  
36 satisfactorily complete an appropriate training program which  
37 emphasizes the goal of the foster care program to provide stable  
38 foster placement until a permanency outcome is achieved.

39 (3) For a child placed in the care of the child's relative  
40 within the third degree by the state or county departments of  
41 human services, the department may make monthly payments to defray  
42 the relative's expense of furnishing room and board if the  
43 department, upon performing a home study, determines that  
44 financial inability to maintain the child is the sole reason  
45 preventing the relative from assuming custody of the child.  
46 Subject to the availability of funds therefor, the department's  
47 kinship care payment may be in an amount lower than or equal to  
48 the amount of the foster care board payment. The department may  
49 continue to make such payments to the relative after the  
50 department relinquishes legal custody of the child to the  
51 relative.

52 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
53 and after July 1, 2007.