

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 3024

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

16 SECTION 1. (1) The University of Mississippi Medical
17 Center, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General,
18 is authorized and empowered to establish a Center of Excellence
19 (center), which shall incorporate the Mississippi Children's
20 Justice Center. The center shall provide services for abused and
21 neglected children through the Blair E. Batson Hospital for
22 Children located in Jackson, Mississippi, where suspected victims
23 of child maltreatment will receive comprehensive physical
24 examinations conducted by medical professionals who specialize in
25 child maltreatment, as well as house the Mississippi Children's
26 Advocacy Center, which will be responsible for the forensic
27 interviews of the suspected victims of child maltreatment. The
28 center also shall accommodate the members of the Hinds County
29 Multidisciplinary Team to provide a centralized service delivery
30 location for abused and neglected children and serve as a model
31 for the state. The University of Mississippi Medical Center and
32 the Office of the Attorney General shall promulgate such rules,
33 regulations and policies as may be necessary and desirable to
34 carry out the programs of the center, to ensure that abused and

35 neglected children are provided not only with the medical, mental
36 health and child welfare services needed, but also to help ensure
37 the successful prosecution of the child maltreatment case both in
38 youth court and criminal court. An advisory council shall be
39 established, which shall include the heads of the agencies and
40 organizations that form the multidisciplinary team. The advisory
41 council, under the guidance of center personnel, shall coordinate
42 the functioning of the team and formulate practice guidelines for
43 all multidisciplinary teams to model state specific, best practice
44 standards. The center multidisciplinary team shall serve as a
45 resource for all teams across the state. The center, in
46 collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, shall serve
47 as a central advocacy program for child protection, and shall
48 facilitate statewide services for the assessment, investigation
49 and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, in conjunction with
50 the Department of Human Services, the court system, child advocacy
51 centers, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical and mental health
52 providers, domestic violence and child abuse prevention and
53 intervention programs and other community and advocacy programs.
54 The center may partner with academic institutions including, but
55 not limited to, schools of social work, psychology, nursing,
56 medicine, dentistry and law to provide graduate internships.

57 (2) The Department of Pediatrics may use the center for
58 educational and outreach programs, tele-medicine consultations, to
59 develop satellite clinics in other locations in the state in
60 cooperation with the local community or private hospital when
61 applicable, and to conduct major research initiatives in child
62 maltreatment.

63 (3) The Center of Excellence shall provide services to
64 maltreated children and comply with national certification
65 standards as necessary to provide services to the Department of

66 Human Services, the courts, the advocacy centers, prosecutors and
67 law enforcement officers.

68 (4) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
69 be known as the Mississippi Children's Justice Center Fund. The
70 State Treasurer shall transfer into the special fund all funds
71 returned to the State Treasury by the MCI WorldCom Settlement
72 specifically donated for the establishment of the Mississippi
73 Children's Justice Center, an academically based, co-located,
74 multidisciplinary facility that will serve as a model for the
75 state for a coordinated response to child abuse and neglect. The
76 University of Mississippi Medical Center shall expend funds
77 pursuant to appropriation therefor by the Legislature for the
78 support and maintenance of the center. The University of
79 Mississippi Medical Center is authorized to accept any and all
80 grants, donations or matching funds from private public or federal
81 sources in order to add to, improve and enlarge the physical
82 facilities of the center and to expend any such funds for the
83 support and maintenance of the center.

84 (5) The youth court may refer the child to the Center of
85 Excellence at the Batson Children's Hospital Child Abuse Referral
86 and Examination (CARE) Clinic for examination and treatment and in
87 order to receive specialized services.

88 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
89 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL
2 CENTER, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
3 TO CREATE A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ABUSED
4 AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN THROUGH THE BLAIR E. BATSON HOSPITAL FOR
5 CHILDREN IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT THE CENTER SHALL
6 INCORPORATE AND HOUSE THE MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER;
7 TO AUTHORIZE THE CENTER TO CONDUCT MAJOR RESEARCH INITIATIVES IN
8 CHILD MALTREATMENT AND CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND
9 TELE-MEDICINE CONSULTATIONS; TO CREATE A MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S
10 JUSTICE CENTER FUND FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS RETURNED TO THE
11 STATE SPECIFICALLY DONATED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE

12 MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER, TO BE EXPENDED UPON
13 APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CENTER;
14 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.