

By: Representative Felsher

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1691

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE CARE PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION
3 SERVICES TO FICTIVE KIN CARING FOR A CHILD IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
4 DEPARTMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 43-15-17. (1) The Department of Child Protection Services
9 is authorized to make such payments as may be appropriate for
10 supportive services to facilitate either the return of children to
11 their natural parents or their adoption, depending upon and
12 contingent upon the availability of the Department of Child
13 Protection Services securing or having sufficient funds to render
14 this supportive service. Upon court order, the parent(s) shall be
15 responsible for reimbursing the department for any foster care or
16 kinship care payments made on behalf of his or her child, based
17 upon financial ability to pay, until such time as there is a
18 termination of parental rights regarding the child, or the child
19 is adopted.



20 (2) For those children placed in foster care by the * * *
21 Department of Child Protection Services, the department shall make
22 monthly payments for the support of these children's room and
23 board, clothing, allowance and personal needs. From and after
24 July 1, 1998, and subject to the availability of funds
25 specifically appropriated therefor, the Department of Child
26 Protection Services' foster care and therapeutic care monthly
27 payment schedule in effect before that date shall be increased by
28 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per month, with that minimum payment
29 not to preclude the department from increasing payments in later
30 years as funds become available. From and after July 1, 1998, in
31 order for foster parents to receive the monthly payments
32 authorized under this subsection (2), the Department of Child
33 Protection Services shall require foster care placements to be
34 licensed as foster care homes and shall require prospective foster
35 parents to satisfactorily complete an appropriate training program
36 that emphasizes the goal of the foster care program to provide
37 stable foster placement until a permanency outcome is achieved.

38 (3) For a child placed by the Department of Child Protection
39 Services in the care of * * * an adult who is related by blood,
40 marriage or adoption within the third degree, or an adult who
41 makes up the family support system of the child, including an
42 adult related beyond third degree, a godparent, friend of the
43 family, or other adult who has a strong familial bond with the
44 child, unless a child is placed in the care of a relative who is



45 exempt from foster care training requirements, the department
46 shall make monthly payments to defray the * * * expense of
47 furnishing room and board. The department's * * * care payment
48 under this subsection shall be in an amount up to one hundred
49 percent (100%) of the amount of the foster care board payment.
50 The department may continue to make those payments to the * * *
51 caregiver after the department relinquishes legal custody of the
52 child to the * * * caregiver if the * * * caregiver has complied
53 with foster care training requirements. Any such payments
54 for * * * care under this subsection shall be subject to specific
55 appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

56 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
57 and after July 1, 2024.

