

By: Representative Ford

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 540
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 41-89-1 AND 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE INFANT
3 MORTALITY TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 41-89-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 41-89-1. (1) There is created the Infant Mortality Task
8 Force, the purpose of which is to foster the reduction of infant
9 mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve the health
10 status of mothers and infants.

11 (2) The Infant Mortality Task Force is hereby continued and
12 reconstituted as follows: The task force shall be composed of
13 eleven (11) voting members appointed as follows:

14 (a) The Governor shall appoint seven (7) members, one
15 (1) from each Mississippi congressional district and two (2) from
16 the state at large.

17 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint two (2)
18 members from the state at large.

19 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
20 appoint two (2) members from the state at large.

21 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task
22 force be comprised of persons with a professional association with
23 or special interest in maternal and infant health and well-being.

24 (e) Any member of the Infant Mortality Task Force
25 appointed and serving prior to July 1, 1995, shall be eligible for
26 reappointment to the task force.

27 (3) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members for initial
28 terms that expire on June 30, 1996, two (2) members for initial
29 terms that expire on June 30, 1997, and three (3) members for
30 initial terms that expire on June 30, 1998. The Lieutenant
31 Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
32 one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30, 1997,
33 and one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30,
34 1998. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms of
35 three (3) years from the expiration of the previous term. No
36 member shall serve more than two (2) successive full terms. Any
37 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be
38 filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate appointing
39 authority. An appointment to fill an unexpired term shall not be
40 considered as a full term.

41 (4) The administrative head of the following state agencies
42 shall designate one (1) employee to serve in an advisory capacity
43 as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Infant Mortality Task
44 Force: (a) Mississippi Department of Health; (b) State Department
45 of Education; (c) Department of Human Services; (d) Mississippi
46 Department of Mental Health; (e) Division of Medicaid; and (f) the
47 University Medical Center. In addition there shall be one (1)
48 member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association who
49 shall serve in an advisory capacity as an ex officio nonvoting
50 member.

51 (5) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare
52 Committee and one (1) member of said committee to be designated by
53 the chairman, and the Chairman of the House Public Health and
54 Welfare Committee and one (1) member of said committee to be
55 designated by the chairman shall serve in an advisory capacity as
56 ex officio nonvoting members of the Infant Mortality Task Force.

57 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2000.

58 SECTION 2. Section 41-89-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
59 amended as follows:

60 41-89-3. (1) The Chairman of the Infant Mortality Task
61 Force shall be elected annually by the task force membership. The
62 task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its efficient
63 operation, which may include designation of its organizational
64 structure including other officers and committees, duties of
65 officers and committees, a process for selecting officers, quorum
66 requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad hoc
67 committees, staff policies and other such procedures as may be
68 necessary. The task force may establish committees responsible
69 for conducting specific task force programs or activities.

70 (2) The task force shall be assigned to the State Department
71 of Health for administrative purposes only, and the department
72 shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task force
73 shall have a line item in the budget of the State Department of
74 Health and shall be financed through the department's annual
75 appropriation. Members of the task force may receive, within the
76 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
77 while engaged in official business of the task force.

78 (3) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
79 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
80 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
81 public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all
82 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act
83 (Section 25-41-1 et seq.) and appropriate notice also shall be
84 given to all persons so requesting of the date, time and place of
85 each meeting.

86 (4) The Infant Mortality Task Force, in conjunction with the
87 State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the
88 State Department of Education and the Division of Medicaid, shall
89 develop and implement a campaign for intensive outreach to high
90 risk populations in Mississippi to encourage them to avail
91 themselves of family planning, prenatal care and infant health
92 services.

93 (5) The Infant Mortality Task Force may apply for and expend
94 grants or other contributions for the purpose of promoting
95 maternal and infant health in Mississippi.

96 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2003.

97 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
98 and after July 1, 1999.