

By: Representative Moody

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1068

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER
2 GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICE GRANTS TO MISSISSIPPI QUALIFIED
3 HEALTH CENTERS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED
4 BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; TO PRESCRIBE THE PROCEDURE TO
5 APPLY FOR SERVICE GRANTS; TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE
6 GRANTS MAY BE USED; TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY PANEL TO REVIEW AND
7 MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE AWARDING OF SERVICE GRANTS; TO CREATE
8 A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE MISSISSIPPI QUALIFIED HEALTH
9 CENTER GRANT PROGRAM INTO WHICH ALL MONEY RECEIVED FROM
10 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO THIS ACT SHALL BE DEPOSITED;
11 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. For purposes of this act:

14 (a) "Mississippi qualified health center" means a
15 public or nonprofit entity which provides comprehensive primary
16 care services that:

17 (i) Has a community board of directors, the
18 majority of whom are users of those centers;

19 (ii) Accepts all patients that present themselves
20 despite their ability to pay and uses a sliding-fee-schedule for
21 payments; and

22 (iii) Serves a designated medically underserved
23 area or population, as provided in Section 330 of the Public
24 Health Service Act.

25 (b) "Uninsured or medically indigent patient" means a
26 patient receiving services from a Mississippi qualified health
27 center who is not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare or any other
28 type of governmental reimbursement for health care costs or
29 receiving third-party payments via an employer.

30 (c) "Department" means the Mississippi State Department

31 of Health.

32 (d) "Primary care" means the basic entry level of
33 health care provided by health care practitioners or nonphysician
34 health care practitioners, which is generally provided in an
35 outpatient setting.

36 (e) "Medically underserved area or population" means an
37 area designated by the Secretary of the United States Department
38 of Health and Human Services as an area with a shortage of
39 professionals, health services or a population group designated by
40 the secretary as having a shortage of such services.

41 (f) "Service grant" means a grant by the department to
42 a Mississippi qualified health center in accordance with this act.

43 (g) "Program" means the Mississippi Qualified Health
44 Center Grant Program established in this act.

45 SECTION 2. The Mississippi Qualified Health Center Grant
46 Program is established, under the direction and administration of
47 the department, for the purpose of making service grants to
48 Mississippi qualified health centers for their use in providing
49 care to uninsured or medically indigent patients in Mississippi.
50 The Mississippi Qualified Health Center Grant Program shall be
51 established with such state funds as may be appropriated by the
52 Legislature.

53 SECTION 3. (1) Any Mississippi qualified health center
54 desiring to participate in the program shall make application for
55 a grant to the department in a form satisfactory to the
56 department. The department shall receive grant proposals from
57 Mississippi qualified health centers. All proposals shall be
58 submitted in accordance with the provisions of grant procedures,
59 criteria and standards developed and made public by the
60 department.

61 (2) The department shall use the funds provided by this act
62 to make grants during the next five (5) years to Mississippi
63 qualified health centers upon proposals made under subsection (1)

64 of this section. Grants that are awarded to Mississippi qualified
65 health centers shall only be used by the centers to:

66 (a) Increase access to preventative and primary care
67 services by uninsured or medically indigent patients that are
68 served by the centers; and

69 (b) Create new services or augment existing services
70 provided to uninsured or medically indigent patients, including,
71 but not limited to, primary care medical and preventive services,
72 dental services, optometric services, in-house laboratory
73 services, diagnostic services, pharmacy services, nutritional
74 services and social services.

75 (3) Grants received by Mississippi qualified health centers
76 pursuant to this act shall not be used:

77 (a) To supplant federal funds traditionally received by
78 such centers, but shall be used to supplement them;

79 (b) For land or real estate investments;

80 (c) To finance or satisfy any existing debt; or

81 (d) Unless the health center specifically complies with
82 a definition of a Mississippi qualified health center contained in
83 Section 1 of this act.

84 (4) The department shall develop regulations, procedures and
85 application forms to govern how grants will be awarded, shall
86 develop a plan to ensure that grants are equitably distributed
87 among all Mississippi qualified health centers, and shall develop
88 an audit process to assure that grant monies are used to provide
89 and expend care to the uninsured and medially indigent.

90 (5) The department shall establish a fund for the purpose of
91 providing service grants to Mississippi qualified health centers
92 in accordance with this act and the following terms and
93 conditions:

94 (a) The total amount of grants issued under this act
95 shall be Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) per state fiscal
96 year.

97 (b) No Mississippi qualified health center shall
98 receive assistance under this program in excess of Two Hundred
99 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per calendar year.

100 (c) Each Mississippi qualified health center receiving
101 a service grant shall provide a yearly report to the department
102 that details the number of additional uninsured and medically
103 indigent patients that are cared for and the types of services
104 that are provided.

105 (6) The department shall establish an advisory council to
106 review and make recommendations to the department on the awarding
107 of any grants to Mississippi qualified health centers. Those
108 recommendations by the advisory council shall not be binding upon
109 the department, but when a recommendation by the advisory council
110 is not followed by the department, the department shall place in
111 its minutes reasons for not accepting the advisory council's
112 recommendation, and provide for an appeals process. All approved
113 grants shall be awarded within thirty (30) days of final approval
114 by the department.

115 (7) The composition of the advisory council shall be the
116 following:

117 (a) Two (2) employees of the department, one (1) of
118 whom must have experience in reviewing and writing grant
119 proposals;

120 (b) Two (2) executive employees of Mississippi
121 qualified health centers, one (1) of whom must be a chief
122 financial officer;

123 (c) Two (2) health care providers who are affiliated
124 with a Mississippi qualified health center; and

125 (d) One (1) health care provider who is not affiliated
126 with a Mississippi qualified health center or the department but
127 has training and experience in primary care.

128 (8) The department may use a portion of any grant monies
129 received under this act to administer the program and to pay

130 reasonable expenses incurred by the advisory council; however, in
131 no case shall more than two percent (2%) or Eighty Thousand
132 Dollars (\$80,000.00) annually, whichever is less, be used to
133 absorb program expenses.

134 (9) No assistance shall be provided to a Mississippi
135 qualified health center under this act unless the Mississippi
136 qualified health center certifies to the department, that it will
137 not discriminate against any employee or against any applicant for
138 employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex
139 or age.

140 SECTION 4. There is created a special fund in the State
141 Treasury to be known as the Mississippi Qualified Health Center
142 Grant Program out of which grants and expenditures authorized in
143 connection with the program shall be disbursed. All monies
144 received by legislative appropriation to carry out the purposes of
145 this act shall be deposited into the Mississippi Qualified Health
146 Center Grant Program.

147 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
148 and after July 1, 1999.