

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

1 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE AND EMPOWER A SPECIAL SENATE TANF
2 MONITORING TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND CONSIDER ALL MATTERS RELATING
3 TO THE EFFECT OF WELFARE PROGRAM REVISIONS ON THE WELL-BEING OF
4 NEEDY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN MISSISSIPPI.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

6 That:

7 (1) There is hereby created a special TANF Monitoring Task
8 Force to study and consider all matters relating to the effect of
9 recent federal and state welfare program revisions on the
10 well-being of needy families and children in Mississippi. The
11 task force may conduct public hearings and receive information
12 from any source deemed appropriate. The task force shall be
13 composed of the following members:

14 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and
15 Welfare Committee, or his designee;

16 (b) The Chairman of the Senate Education Committee or
17 his designee;

18 (c) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations
19 Committee, or his designee;

20 (d) The Chairman of the Senate Economic Development,
21 Tourism and Parks Committee, or his designee;

22 (e) Two (2) representatives of the Department of Human
23 Services, appointed by the Executive Director of the Department;

24 (f) One (1) representative of the Division of Medicaid,
25 Office of the Governor, appointed by the Executive Director of the
26 Division of Medicaid;

27 (g) Five (5) members appointed by the Lieutenant

28 Governor from the public at large which shall include two (2)
29 recipients or former recipients of public assistance;

30 (h) One (1) member of the Lieutenant Governor's staff
31 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

32 Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days of passage
33 of this resolution.

34 (2) The task force shall study and consider the following
35 issues:

36 (a) Determine how federal and state welfare law and
37 policy revisions have affected the well-being of needy families
38 and children in Mississippi, what barriers continue to affect
39 recipients' and former recipients' abilities to find and keep jobs
40 and to move toward self-sufficiency, the quality of jobs they
41 obtain, and how Mississippi's welfare program can be improved to
42 help families overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency;

43 (b) How the researchers will collect information
44 representative of the State of Mississippi and each of the states'
45 congressional districts;

46 (c) What questions should be answered about the
47 families that have left welfare, including their work experience,
48 the barriers they face in trying to become self-sufficient, the
49 health and well-being of children and adults in the families;

50 (d) Research methods that should be used to collect
51 information about these families, including surveys and matching
52 of administrative data;

53 (e) A schedule for research for the next five (5) years
54 to track changes in the experience and well-being of families
55 during that period;

56 (f) An analysis of key subgroups within the population,
57 such as experienced workers or women without job experience and
58 how research can be designed to develop information specific to
59 those groups;

60 (g) An identification of potential organizations to do

61 the research, including an assessment of their expertise and
62 experience in the different methods proposed;

63 (h) An estimate of the costs of doing the research; and

64 (i) A plan for reporting the research to the Governor
65 and the Legislature that will insure the timely and independent
66 analysis of the effects of welfare reform on Mississippi's
67 families.

68 (3) The Lieutenant Governor shall call the first meeting and
69 shall preside over the meeting, at which time the task force shall
70 elect a chairman and vice-chairman of the task force. The
71 vice-chairman shall also serve as secretary and shall be
72 responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A majority
73 of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. All
74 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings at least five
75 (5) days prior to the date on which a meeting is to be held.

76 (4) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state
77 officials or state employees shall be reimbursed from the Senate
78 Contingent Expense Fund in accordance with Section 25-3-41,
79 Mississippi Code of 1972, for mileage and actual expenses incurred
80 in the performance of their duties. Legislative members of the
81 task force shall be paid from the Senate Contingent Expense Fund
82 in the same manner as provided for attendance at committee
83 meetings when the Legislature is not in session; however, no per
84 diem or expense for attending meetings of the task force will be
85 paid to legislators while the Legislature is in session. Members
86 of the task force who are state officials or state employees shall
87 be reimbursed by their department or agency for mileage and actual
88 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance
89 with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972. No task force
90 member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless
91 previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the task force,
92 which action shall be recorded in the official minutes of the
93 meeting.

94 (5) The task force shall utilize clerical and legal staff of
95 the Senate. To effectuate the purposes of the task force any
96 department, board or agency of the state or local government
97 shall, at the request of the chairman of the task force, provide
98 to the task force such facilities, assistance and data as will
99 enable the task force to properly carry out its powers and duties.

100 (6) The task force shall present its findings to the Senate
101 on or before December 15, 1999, by filing its report thereon with
102 the Secretary of the Senate. Its report may propose legislation
103 related to the matters within the jurisdiction of the task force.
104 The task force shall be dissolved on January 1, 2000.

105 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
106 transmitted to those state agencies and those associations which
107 have members on the Senate task force created pursuant to this
108 resolution.