

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled **BILL**:

H.B. No. 976: Children's Health Care Program; increase eligibility to 200% of poverty level.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 41-86-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 41-86-5. As used in Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17, the
14 following definitions shall have the meanings ascribed in this
15 section, unless the context indicates otherwise:

16 (a) "Act" means the Mississippi Children's Health Care
17 Act.

18 (b) "Administering agency" means the agency designated
19 by the Mississippi Children's Health Insurance Program Commission
20 to administer the program.

21 (c) "Board" means the State and Public School Employees
22 Health Insurance Management Board created under Section 25-15-303.

23 (d) "Child" means an individual who is under nineteen
24 (19) years of age who is not eligible for Medicaid benefits and is
25 not covered by other health insurance.

26 (e) "Commission" means the Mississippi Children's
27 Health Insurance Program Commission created by Section 41-86-7.

28 (f) "Covered benefits" means the types of health care
29 benefits and services provided to eligible recipients
30 under the Children's Health Care Program.

31 (g) "Division" means the Division of Medicaid in the
32 Office of the Governor.

33 (h) "Low-income child" means a child whose family

34 income does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the poverty
35 level for a family of the size involved.

36 (i) "Plan" means the State Child Health Plan.

37 (j) "Program" means the Children's Health Care Program
38 established by Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17.

39 (k) "Recipient" means a person who is eligible for
40 assistance under the program.

41 (l) "State Child Health Plan" means the permanent plan
42 that sets forth the manner and means by which the State of
43 Mississippi will provide health care assistance to eligible
44 uninsured, low-income children consistent with the provisions of
45 Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act, as amended.

46 SECTION 2. The following provision shall be codified as
47 Section 41-86-19, Mississippi Code of 1972:

48 41-86-19. The Division of Medicaid shall develop a
49 Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment outreach initiative
50 in cooperation with the State Department of Education's federal
51 free and reduced lunch program, the State Department of Health,
52 the Department of Human Services, the Department of Finance and
53 Administration, community health centers, the Mississippi State
54 Medical Association, the Mississippi State Hospital Association,
55 other health provider associations and community action
56 agencies/Headstart centers. The enrollment outreach initiative
57 shall be the responsibility of the C.H.I.P. Information
58 Coordinator within the Division of Medicaid. The Division of
59 Medicaid is authorized to maintain a statewide in-coming wide area
60 telephone service for the purpose of providing information for and
61 encouraging Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment.

62 SECTION 3. The following provision shall be codified as
63 Section 41-86-21, Mississippi Code of 1972:

64 41-86-21. (1) There is hereby established a C.H.I.P.
65 Advisory Board to advise the State and Public School Employees
66 Health Insurance Management Board relative to the Children's
67 Health Insurance Program. The C.H.I.P. Advisory Board shall be
68 composed of the Executive Director of the Mississippi State

69 Department of Health, the Executive Director of the Division of
70 Medicaid, Office of the Governor, one (1) member of the State and
71 Public School Employees' Health Insurance Management Board to be
72 appointed by the chairman of the board, and two (2) health care
73 providers of services to children appointed by the Governor for
74 terms concurrent with that of the Governor. For attending
75 meetings of the C.H.I.P. Advisory Board, those members who are not
76 state officials or state employees shall receive the per diem
77 authorized under Section 25-3-69 and shall receive expense
78 reimbursement as authorized under Section 25-3-41.

79 (2) There is hereby established a Joint C.H.I.P. Advisory
80 Committee to meet with the C.H.I.P. Advisory Board and advise the
81 State and Public School Employees Health Insurance Management
82 Board relative to the Children's Health Insurance Program. The
83 Joint C.H.I.P. Advisory Committee shall be composed of the
84 Chairman of the House Public Health and Welfare Committee, the
85 Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, one
86 (1) member of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to
87 serve at the will and pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor, and one
88 (1) member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
89 Speaker of the House to serve at the will and pleasure of the
90 Speaker. The committee shall meet upon the call of the Chairman
91 of the C.H.I.P. Advisory Board. The appointing authorities may
92 designate an alternate member from their respective houses to
93 serve when the regular designee is unable to attend such meetings
94 of the committee. For attending meetings of the Joint C.H.I.P.
95 Advisory Committee, such legislators shall receive per diem and
96 expenses which shall be paid from the contingent expense funds of
97 their respective houses in the same amounts as provided for
98 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;
99 however, no per diem and expenses for attending meetings of the
100 committee will be paid while the Legislature is in session.

101 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after its passage.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and

inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-86-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILY INCOMES DO NOT EXCEED 200% OF
3 THE POVERTY LEVEL WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE
4 PROGRAM; TO CODIFY SECTION 41-86-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
5 PROVIDE FOR A CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT
6 OUTREACH INITIATIVE IN THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID; TO CODIFY SECTION
7 41-86-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ESTABLISH AND EMPOWER A
8 C.H.I.P. ADVISORY BOARD AND A JOINT LEGISLATIVE C.H.I.P. ADVISORY
9 COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X _____
Bobby Moody

X _____
Willie Simmons

X _____
Frances Fredericks

X _____
Dick Hall

X _____
Mary Ann Stevens

X _____
Jim Bean