

By: Holland, Espy, Flaggs

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1469

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-86-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA UNDER THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
3 INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP) TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN
4 WITHOUT INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS OR MORE
5 WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE COVERED BENEFITS UNDER THE PROGRAM;
6 TO REQUIRE THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE
7 MANAGEMENT BOARD TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO THE
8 THREE-MONTH PERIOD WITHOUT INSURANCE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILIES
9 WHO HAVE LOST INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOOD CAUSE OR THROUGH NO
10 FAULT OF THEIR OWN; TO AMEND SECTION 41-86-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
11 1972, TO REQUIRE THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD TO CONDUCT A
12 COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE
13 INFORMATION RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH BENEFITS FOR
14 CHILDREN THROUGH MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
15 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD TO CONTRACT WITH
16 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OR COALITIONS OF COMMUNITY-BASED
17 ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN, AND TO PROMOTE AND
18 ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN; TO PROVIDE
19 THAT FUNDING FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND FOR THE CONTRACTS EXECUTED BY
20 THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN SHALL BE
21 PROVIDED BY THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

23 SECTION 1. Section 41-86-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 amended as follows:

25 41-86-15. (1) Persons eligible to receive covered benefits
26 under Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17 shall be low-income
27 children who meet the eligibility standards set forth in the plan.

28 Any person who is eligible for benefits under the Mississippi
29 Medicaid Law, Section 43-13-101 et seq., shall not be eligible to
30 receive benefits under Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17. A
31 person who has been without insurance coverage for a period of
32 three (3) months or more and who meets the other eligibility
33 criteria in the plan shall be eligible to receive covered benefits
34 under the program. The State and School Employees Health
35 Insurance Management Board shall adopt regulations to provide

36 exceptions to the three-month period without insurance for
37 eligibility for families who have lost insurance coverage for good
38 cause or through no fault of their own.

39 (2) The eligibility of children for covered benefits under
40 the program shall be determined annually by the same agency or
41 entity that determines eligibility under Section 43-13-115(9) and
42 shall cover twelve (12) continuous months under the program.

43 SECTION 2. Section 41-86-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
44 amended as follows:

45 41-86-19. (1) The Division of Medicaid shall develop a
46 Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment outreach initiative
47 in cooperation with the State Department of Education's federal
48 free and reduced lunch program, the State Department of Health,
49 the Department of Human Services, the Department of Finance and
50 Administration, community health centers, the Mississippi State
51 Medical Association, the Mississippi State Hospital Association,
52 other health provider associations and community action
53 agencies/Headstart centers. The enrollment outreach initiative
54 shall be the responsibility of the CHIP Information Coordinator
55 within the Division of Medicaid. The Division of Medicaid is
56 authorized to maintain a statewide in-coming wide area telephone
57 service for the purpose of providing information for and
58 encouraging Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment.

59 (2) (a) The CHIP Advisory Board established under Section
60 41-86-21(1) shall conduct a community-based outreach and education
61 campaign to provide information relating to the availability of
62 health benefits for children through Medicaid and the Children's
63 Health Insurance Program. The CHIP Advisory Board shall conduct
64 the campaign in a manner that promotes enrollment in all state
65 child health programs and supports existing outreach and
66 enrollment initiatives, including the initiative mandated under
67 subsection (1) of this section.

68 (b) The CHIP Advisory Board shall contract with
69 community-based organizations or coalitions of community-based
70 organizations to implement the community-based outreach and
71 education campaign, and also shall promote and encourage voluntary
72 efforts to implement the campaign. The CHIP Advisory Board shall

73 procure the contracts through a process designed by the advisory
74 board to encourage broad participation of organizations, including
75 those organizations that target population groups with high levels
76 of uninsured children.

77 (c) Funding for the community-based outreach and
78 education campaign and for the contracts executed by the CHIP
79 Advisory Board to implement the campaign shall be provided by the
80 Division of Medicaid.

81 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
82 and after July 1, 2000.