

By: Holland, Espy, Flaggs

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
AppropriationsHOUSE BILL NO. 1469
(As Sent to Governor)

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 IS WITHOUT
4 INSURANCE COVERAGE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR THE PROGRAM AND
5 WHO MEETS THE OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO
6 RECEIVE COVERED BENEFITS UNDER THE PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO FEDERAL
7 APPROVAL; TO PROVIDE THAT IF FEDERAL APPROVAL IS NOT OBTAINED FOR
8 THE PRECEDING PROVISION, THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID SHALL SEEK
9 FEDERAL APPROVAL TO ALLOW ELIGIBILITY AFTER THE SHORTEST WAITING
10 PERIOD OF BEING WITHOUT INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR WHICH APPROVAL CAN
11 BE OBTAINED; TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE CHIP PLAN INCLUDES ANY WAITING
12 PERIOD OF BEING WITHOUT INSURANCE COVERAGE BEFORE ELIGIBILITY, THE
13 STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD SHALL
14 ADOPT REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO THE WAITING PERIOD FOR
15 FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOOD CAUSE OR
16 THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN; TO AMEND SECTION 41-86-19,
17 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD TO
18 CONDUCT A COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO
19 PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH
20 BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN THROUGH MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
21 INSURANCE PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD TO
22 CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OR COALITIONS OF
23 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN, AND
24 REQUIRE THIS ADVISORY BOARD TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY
25 EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN; TO PROVIDE THAT FUNDING FOR THE
26 CAMPAIGN AND FOR ANY CONTRACTS EXECUTED BY THE CHIP ADVISORY BOARD
27 TO IMPLEMENT THE CAMPAIGN SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE DIVISION OF
28 MEDICAID; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

32 41-86-15. (1) Persons eligible to receive covered benefits
33 under Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17 shall be low-income
34 children who meet the eligibility standards set forth in the plan.
35 Any person who is eligible for benefits under the Mississippi
36 Medicaid Law, Section 43-13-101 et seq., shall not be eligible to
37 receive benefits under Sections 41-86-5 through 41-86-17. A
38 person who is without insurance coverage at the time of
39 application for the program and who meets the other eligibility

40 criteria in the plan shall be eligible to receive covered benefits
41 under the program, if federal approval is obtained to allow
42 eligibility with no waiting period of being without insurance
43 coverage. If federal approval is not obtained for the preceding
44 provision, the Division of Medicaid shall seek federal approval to
45 allow eligibility after the shortest waiting period of being
46 without insurance coverage for which approval can be obtained.
47 After federal approval is obtained to allow eligibility after a
48 certain waiting period of being without insurance coverage, a
49 person who has been without insurance coverage for the approved
50 waiting period and who meets the other eligibility criteria in the
51 plan shall be eligible to receive covered benefits under the
52 program. If the plan includes any waiting period of being without
53 insurance coverage before eligibility, the State and School
54 Employees Health Insurance Management Board shall adopt
55 regulations to provide exceptions to the waiting period for
56 families who have lost insurance coverage for good cause or
57 through no fault of their own.

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

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

64 41-86-19. (1) The Division of Medicaid shall develop a
65 Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment outreach initiative
66 in cooperation with the State Department of Education's federal
67 free and reduced lunch program, the State Department of Health,
68 the Department of Human Services, the Department of Finance and
69 Administration, community health centers, the Mississippi State
70 Medical Association, the Mississippi State Hospital Association,
71 other health provider associations and community action
72 agencies/Headstart centers. The enrollment outreach initiative
73 shall be the responsibility of the CHIP Information Coordinator
74 within the Division of Medicaid. The Division of Medicaid is
75 authorized to maintain a statewide in-coming wide area telephone
76 service for the purpose of providing information for and

77 encouraging Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment.

78 (2) (a) The CHIP Advisory Board established under Section
79 41-86-21(1) shall conduct a community-based outreach and education
80 campaign to provide information relating to the availability of
81 health benefits for children through Medicaid and the Children's
82 Health Insurance Program. The CHIP Advisory Board shall conduct
83 the campaign in a manner that promotes enrollment in all state
84 child health programs and supports existing outreach and
85 enrollment initiatives, including the initiative mandated under
86 subsection (1) of this section.

87 (b) The CHIP Advisory Board may contract with
88 community-based organizations or coalitions of community-based
89 organizations to implement the community-based outreach and
90 education campaign, and shall promote and encourage voluntary
91 efforts to implement the campaign. The CHIP Advisory Board shall
92 procure any contracts through a process designed by the advisory
93 board to encourage broad participation of organizations, including
94 those organizations that target population groups with high levels
95 of uninsured children.

96 (c) Funding for the community-based outreach and
97 education campaign and for any contracts executed by the CHIP
98 Advisory Board to implement the campaign shall be provided by the
99 Division of Medicaid.

100 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
101 and after its passage.