

By: Carlton

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2682

1 AN ACT TO MANDATE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR
2 FIRST TIME DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 SECTION 1. (1) The Social Science Research Center of
5 Mississippi State University shall engage in a comprehensive
6 planning process and conduct a pilot program to determine the
7 effectiveness of various domestic violence programs and to
8 develop, coordinate and implement a meaningful and responsive
9 program, statewide, to prevent domestic violence. The scope of
10 planning shall be to determine the components of effective
11 batterers' programs, the minimum length of intervention in which
12 benefits are derived while remaining cost effective, the
13 differences in outcomes between court-mandated versus voluntary
14 batterers' participation and what are the predictors of domestic
15 violence assaults and other abusive behaviors and subsequent
16 arrests. In developing the plan, the Social Science Research
17 Center, in its discretion, may invite active participation from
18 local consumers, practitioners, researchers, foundations, mayors,
19 members of the Legislature, any available federal regional staff
20 and any other appropriate participant.

21 (2) The Statewide Domestic Abuse Education Program shall be

22 developed as a pilot program for a period of three (3) years. The
23 Social Science Research Center shall collect data from not more
24 than five (5) sites in which various batterer's programs are
25 currently being conducted. Comparisons will be made once programs
26 are identified; the center will oversee development of requests
27 for proposals and will contract for services and program
28 evaluation.

29 (3) In addition to the research and evaluation components of
30 the pilot program, the Statewide Domestic Abuse Education Program
31 shall offer a wide range of services, including, but not limited
32 to, the following: crisis resolution; teaching measures to
33 prevent the repeated occurrence of abuse, neglect or family
34 conflict; education in parenting skills, child development,
35 communication and negotiation skills.

36 (4) The Social Science Research Center of Mississippi State
37 University shall report to the Legislature the results of the
38 pilot program not later than October 15, 2002.

39 SECTION 2. (1) From and after July 1, 2003, upon conviction
40 of any person for the first offense of domestic abuse as defined
41 in Section 99-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, the court shall order
42 such person to attend and complete a domestic abuse education
43 program.

44 (2) The domestic abuse education program shall be that
45 developed by the Statewide Domestic Abuse Education Program pilot
46 program.

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