

By: Tollison

To: Public Health and
Welfare;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2995

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXISTING
2 VULNERABLE ADULT AND ELDERLY SERVICES IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR
3 THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO
4 SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
5 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that:

8 (a) Services to the elderly and vulnerable adults are
9 reportedly inadequate in the State of Mississippi;

10 (b) The structure of the service delivery system is
11 reportedly not efficient and effective for adequate implementation
12 of services;

13 (c) No guardianship program exists in the State of
14 Mississippi;

15 (d) Coordination of services is lacking and gaps exist
16 regarding needed services to the elderly and vulnerable adults in
17 the State of Mississippi;

18 (e) There is no funding for the Vulnerable Adults Act
19 which was originally enacted in 1986; and

20 (f) Few services exist to aid families and care givers
21 with the care of vulnerable adults and elderly family members
22 which could prevent the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and
23 the elderly.

24 SECTION 2. (1) There is hereby created a task force to
25 study the existing vulnerable adult and elderly services in this
26 state, specifically but not exclusively to:

27 (a) Determine the gaps and duplication in services to

28 vulnerable adults and the elderly in this state;

29 (b) Determine the barriers to service delivery;

30 (c) Examine the structure of the current service
31 delivery systems for effectiveness and efficiency;

32 (d) Determine needed services and structural changes in
33 the service delivery system;

34 (e) Examine current prevention of abuse and neglect
35 programs and services, i.e., adult foster care, respite care,
36 adult day care, voluntary services, and care giver support groups;

37 (f) Review existing programs, services and service
38 delivery systems in other states; and

39 (g) Review funding needs for implementation of the
40 Vulnerable Adults Act and the creation of needed services, and to
41 examine the need for a public guardianship in the state.

42 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
43 members:

44 (a) One (1) member of the Senate to be appointed by the
45 Lieutenant Governor;

46 (b) One (1) member of the House of Representatives to
47 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

48 (c) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi
49 Conference on Chancery Judges;

50 (d) One (1) member selected by the American Association
51 of Retired Persons;

52 (e) One (1) member selected by the Association of
53 Retarded Citizens;

54 (f) One (1) member selected by the National Alliance
55 for the Mentally Ill;

56 (e) One (1) member selected by the Alzheimer's
57 Association;

58 (g) One (1) member selected by the Veterans of Foreign
59 Wars Association;

60 (h) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid;

61 (i) One (1) member representative from the Office of
62 the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program;

63 (j) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Hospital
64 Association;

65 (k) The Director of the Division of Family and
66 Children's Services, Department of Human Services;

67 (l) The Director of the Adult and Aging Services,
68 Department of Human Services;

69 (m) One (1) member selected by the National Association
70 of Social Workers;

71 (n) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Medical
72 Association;

73 (o) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Chancery
74 Clerk Association; and

75 (p) One (1) member selected by the Office of Rural
76 Legal Services.

77 (3) Funding for the task force may be provided from any
78 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature for that
79 purpose, or from any funds available from other sources.

80 (4) Members of the board shall not receive any compensation
81 or per diem, but may receive travel reimbursement provided in
82 Section 25-3-41, except that the legislators shall receive per
83 diem and expenses which shall be paid from the contingent expense
84 funds of their respective houses in the same amount as provided
85 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;
86 however, no per diem and expenses for attending meetings of the
87 task force shall be paid to legislators while the Legislature is
88 in session.

89 (5) The task force shall submit to the Legislature on or
90 before January 1, 2001, a report of its findings and
91 recommendations, and upon filing the report, shall be dissolved.

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