

By: Scoper

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE TO  
2 STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
3 OUT-PATIENT CLINICS IN THE RURAL AREAS OF MISSISSIPPI FORMERLY  
4 SERVED BY STATE CHARITY HOSPITALS OR COMMUNITY-OWNED HOSPITALS  
5 WHICH HAVE CLOSED; TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE A WRITTEN  
6 REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1,  
7 2000; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 WHEREAS, on July 1, 1989, the South Mississippi State  
9 Hospital at Laurel, Kuhn Memorial State Hospital at Vicksburg and  
10 the Matty Hersee Hospital at Meridian were closed by act of the  
11 Legislature; and

12 WHEREAS, Mississippi's health care population is unique in  
13 that 20% of our population is on Medicaid, with another 20%  
14 uninsured; and

15 WHEREAS, Mississippi is also unique in the structure and  
16 resource of our health care system, we have only one teaching  
17 hospital, and the state has fewer primary care physicians for its  
18 population than any other state; and

19 WHEREAS, persons who are uninsured or underinsured tend to  
20 delay seeking health care until their health problem becomes so  
21 severe that they must obtain treatment usually in a hospital  
22 emergency room, and this delay in seeking care and the use of the  
23 emergency room both cause treatment costs to be much higher than

24 if the medical care could be provided early and in a more  
25 appropriate outpatient setting; and

26 WHEREAS, these excessive costs are passed on through cost  
27 shifting to others who pay their medical bills, and this cost  
28 shifting results in higher insurance premiums and deductibles for  
29 the State of Mississippi and the private sector; and

30 WHEREAS, for these reasons it is important for Mississippians  
31 to develop proposals for the development of a rural outpatient  
32 clinic access system in Mississippi, keeping in mind our unique  
33 needs:

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
36 a special joint study and oversight committee is created to Study  
37 and make Recommendations Concerning the Establishment of  
38 Out-Patient Clinics in Underserved Rural Areas of the State and to  
39 recommend a funding source for such clinics. The joint committee  
40 shall be composed of the Chairman of the Senate Public Health and  
41 Welfare Committee, the Chairman of the House Public Health and  
42 Welfare Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations  
43 Committee, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, one  
44 (1) member of the public and one (1) member who is a health care  
45 provider to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, one (1)  
46 member of the public and one (1) member who is a health care  
47 provider to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one (1)  
48 member of the public and one (1) member who is a health care  
49 provider to be appointed by the Governor.

50 Within fifteen (15) days after sine die adjournment of the  
51 2000 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor,  
52 Speaker and the Governor shall appoint the members of the  
53 committee. After the members are appointed, the joint committee  
54 shall meet on a date designated by the Governor in Jackson,

55 Mississippi, to select a chairman, organize the committee and  
56 establish rules for transacting its business and keeping records.

57 An affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be  
58 required in the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports. All  
59 members of the joint committee shall be notified in writing of all  
60 regular and special meetings of the committee, which notices shall  
61 be mailed at least five (5) days before the dates of the meetings.

62 The joint committee may establish any subcommittees that it  
63 deems desirable to study and report to the committee with respect  
64 to any matter that is within the scope of this resolution.

65 The joint committee shall make a written report of its  
66 findings and recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report  
67 to each member of the Legislature not later than December 1, 2000.

68 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the joint  
69 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of  
70 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state,  
71 including the state universities and the community and junior  
72 colleges. In particular, the joint committee shall consult with  
73 the Division of Medicaid, and the Division of Medicaid shall  
74 cooperate with the committee and provide the committee with any  
75 information and other assistance requested by the committee. The  
76 joint committee may consult and seek advice from various groups in  
77 the state in order to understand the effect of any existing laws  
78 or any changes in law being considered by the committee.

79 For attending meetings of the joint committee, each member  
80 shall be paid per diem compensation in the amount authorized by  
81 Section 25-3-69 and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance  
82 in the amount authorized by Section 5-1-47. Legislative members

83 shall be paid from the contingent expense fund of the member's  
84 respective house, and nonlegislative members shall be paid from  
85 funds made available by appropriation of the Legislature for the  
86 purpose of this resolution. However, no per diem compensation,  
87 mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending  
88 meetings of the joint committee while the Legislature is in  
89 session, and no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or  
90 expense allowance shall be paid without prior approval of the  
91 proper committee in the member's respective house.