

By: Representative Fleming

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 321

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A
2 STUDY ON OBESITY AND ITS EFFECTS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
3 HEALTH TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT DETAILING ITS FINDINGS TO THE
4 LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) This act shall be known as the "Obesity
7 Impact Study."

8 (2) For the purposes of this section, the following words
9 and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this section
10 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 (a) "Obese" means excessively fat.

12 (b) "Obesity" means an increase in body weight beyond
13 the limitation of skeletal and physical requirement, as the result
14 of an excessive accumulation of fat in the body.

15 (c) "Morbid obesity" means the condition of weighing
16 two (2) or three (3), or more, times the ideal weight.

17 (3) The Mississippi State Department of Health (department)
18 shall conduct a study on the effects of obesity in adults and
19 children for the purpose of identifying factors that have a
20 negative impact on their health and well-being and making
21 recommendations for improvement in awareness of the problem of
22 obesity and suggested treatment. The department shall also
23 explore means to decrease the number of residents effected by
24 obesity. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the
25 following components:

26 (a) A statement of the number of residents that are
27 affected by obesity and the reasons for this condition;



28 (b) An exploration of the causal relationship that
29 exists between obesity and serious, life threatening disorders
30 such as: hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease,
31 diabetes, gallbladder disease, respiratory dysfunction, gout,
32 osteoarthritis, and other health problems;

33 (c) An estimation of the amount of money spent on
34 health problems caused by obesity;

35 (d) The potential for a reduction in health care
36 expenditures through obesity prevention efforts;

37 (e) The effects of obesity in children on their overall
38 health and the health care costs for treatment; and

39 (f) Recommendations for a program that would heighten
40 awareness about obesity and its related health effects and to
41 discourage behavior that leads to obesity.

42 (4) Before December 15, 2001, the department shall submit a
43 written report detailing the results of its study and recommending
44 any legislation necessary for the implementation of its proposals
45 to the Legislature.

46 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after its passage.

