

By: Representative Ford

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 471

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 WHICH CREATES THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE  
3 REPEAL DATE FROM JULY 1, 2001, TO JULY 1, 2002; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 41-89-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 41-89-1. (1) There is created the Infant Mortality Task  
9 Force, the purpose of which is to foster the reduction of infant  
10 mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve the health  
11 status of mothers and infants.

12 (2) The Infant Mortality Task Force is hereby continued and  
13 reconstituted as follows: The task force shall be composed of  
14 eleven (11) voting members appointed as follows:

15 (a) The Governor shall appoint seven (7) members, one  
16 (1) from each Mississippi congressional district and two (2) from  
17 the state at large.

18 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint two (2)  
19 members from the state at large.

20 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
21 appoint two (2) members from the state at large.

22 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task  
23 force be comprised of persons with a professional association with  
24 or special interest in maternal and infant health and well-being.

25 (e) Any member of the Infant Mortality Task Force  
26 appointed and serving prior to July 1, 1995, shall be eligible for  
27 reappointment to the task force.

28           (3) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members for initial  
29 terms that expire on June 30, 1996, two (2) members for initial  
30 terms that expire on June 30, 1997, and three (3) members for  
31 initial terms that expire on June 30, 1998. The Lieutenant  
32 Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint  
33 one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30, 1997,  
34 and one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30,  
35 1998. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms of  
36 three (3) years from the expiration of the previous term. No  
37 member shall serve more than two (2) successive full terms. Any  
38 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be  
39 filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate appointing  
40 authority. An appointment to fill an unexpired term shall not be  
41 considered as a full term.

42           (4) The administrative head of the following state agencies  
43 shall designate one (1) employee to serve in an advisory capacity  
44 as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Infant Mortality Task  
45 Force: (a) Mississippi Department of Health; (b) State Department  
46 of Education; (c) Department of Human Services; (d) Mississippi  
47 Department of Mental Health; (e) Division of Medicaid; and (f) the  
48 University Medical Center. In addition there shall be one (1)  
49 member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association who  
50 shall serve in an advisory capacity as an ex officio nonvoting  
51 member.

52           (5) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare  
53 Committee and one (1) member of said committee to be designated by  
54 the chairman, and the Chairman of the House Public Health and  
55 Welfare Committee and one (1) member of said committee to be  
56 designated by the chairman shall serve in an advisory capacity as  
57 ex officio nonvoting members of the Infant Mortality Task Force.

58           (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2002.

59           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
60 and after July 1, 2001.