

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2292

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK  
3 FORCE; TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
4 CLARIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59           (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2003.

60           SECTION 2. Section 41-89-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
61 amended as follows:

62           41-89-5. \* \* \* The task force shall:

63                   (a) Serve an advocacy and public awareness role with  
64 the general public regarding maternal and infant health issues;

65                   (b) Conduct studies on maternal and infant health and  
66 related issues;

67           \* \* \*

68                   (c) Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature  
69 appropriate policies to reduce Mississippi's infant mortality and  
70 morbidity rates and to improve the status of maternal and infant  
71 health; and

72                   (d) Report annually to the Governor and the Legislature  
73 regarding the progress made toward the goals outlined in  
74 subsection (1) of Section 41-89-1 and the actions taken with  
75 regard to recommendations previously made.

76           \* \* \*

77           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
78 and after June 30, 2001.