

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.

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