

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2373

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON OBESITY
2 PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT, PROVIDE FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP AND PROVIDE
3 FOR ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi
6 Council on Obesity Prevention and Management, hereinafter referred
7 to as the "council" within the Mississippi Department of Health to
8 be in existence for the period from July 1, 2001, to July 1, 2003.
9 The council may accept and expend grants and private donations
10 from any source, including federal, state, public and private
11 entities, to assist it to carry out its functions.

12 (2) The powers, functions and duties of the council shall
13 include, but not be limited to, the following:

14 (a) The collection and analysis of data regarding the
15 extent to which children and adults in Mississippi suffer from
16 obesity, and the programs and services currently available to meet
17 the needs of overweight children and adults, and the funds
18 dedicated by the state to maintain such programs and services.

19 (b) The collection and analysis of data to demonstrate
20 the economic impact on the state of treating obesity and the
21 estimated cost savings of implementing a comprehensive statewide
22 obesity prevention and management model.

23 (c) The establishment and maintenance of a resources
24 databank containing information about obesity and related subjects
25 accessible to educational and research institutions, as well as
26 members of the general public.

27 (d) Consideration of the feasibility of awarding tax
28 incentives for work sites which promote activities to reduce
29 obesity in the work force.

30 (e) The establishment of recommendations to enhance
31 funding for effective prevention and management programs and
32 services, including Medicaid, private health insurance programs,
33 and other state and federal funds.

34 (f) The establishment of recommendations designed to
35 assure that children of school age who may have early indicators
36 of obesity have access to affordable, effective prevention and
37 management services.

38 (g) The establishment of recommendations for changes to
39 statewide elementary and secondary education curricula to
40 implement comprehensive, coordinated obesity awareness and
41 education programs.

42 (h) Recommendations to enhance clinical education
43 curricula in medical, nursing and other schools of higher
44 education to implement comprehensive, coordinated obesity
45 awareness and education courses.

46 (i) Recommendations to increase education and awareness
47 among primary care physicians and other health professionals
48 regarding the recognition, prevention and effective management of
49 obesity.

50 (j) Consideration of a state prevention campaign to
51 increase public awareness of the need for early prevention and
52 management of obesity, possibly including:

53 (i) A broad-based public education campaign
54 outlining health risks associated with failure to receive
55 treatment for obesity.

56 (ii) A health professional training campaign.

57 (iii) A targeted public education campaign
58 directed toward high risk populations.

59 (k) Coordination with the U.S. Department of
60 Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the
61 U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Center for Disease Control
62 and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention to share
63 resources and information in order to ensure a comprehensive
64 approach to obesity and obesity-related conditions.

65 (l) Coordination with the State Departments of
66 Education, Health, Human Services and the Division of Medicaid to
67 share resources and information in order to ensure a comprehensive
68 approach to obesity and obesity-related conditions.

69 (m) Identification of and recommendations to reduce
70 cultural, environmental and socioeconomic barriers to prevention
71 and management of obesity in Mississippi.

72 (3) The council shall be composed of the following members:

73 (a) The Executive Director of the Department of Health,
74 or his designee.

75 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
76 Services, or his designee.

77 (c) The State Superintendent of Education, or his
78 designee.

79 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of Mental
80 Health, or his designee.

81 (e) A representative of the Office of the Governor, to
82 be appointed by the Governor.

83 (f) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed
84 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

85 (g) A member of the Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant
86 Governor.

87 (h) Two (2) representatives of the public-at-large, to
88 be selected by the Governor.

89 (i) The President of the Mississippi Medical
90 Association, or his designee, or the African American Obesity
91 Research and Treatment Association (AAORTA).

92 (j) The President of the Mississippi State Nurses
93 Association, or his designee.

94 (k) The President of the Mississippi Pharmacists
95 Association, or his designee.

96 (l) The President of the Mississippi Chapter of the
97 American Academy of Pediatrics, or his designee.

98 (m) The Vice Chancellor of the University of
99 Mississippi Medical Center, or his designee.

100 (n) A representative appointed from the Mississippi
101 state office of the American Association of Retired Persons.

102 (o) A representative of the Mississippi Dietetic
103 Association.

104 (p) A representative of the Mississippi Restaurant
105 Association.

106 (q) The President of the Mississippi Physical Therapy
107 Association, or his designee.

108 (r) A member appointed by the Mississippi Commissioner
109 of Insurance.

110 (s) A representative from a food processor or food
111 manufacturer.

112 (4) The council shall meet upon call of the Governor not
113 later than August 1, 2001, and shall organize for business by
114 selecting a chairman who shall serve for a one-year term and may
115 be selected for subsequent terms. The council shall adopt
116 internal organizational procedures necessary for efficient
117 operation of the council. Council procedures shall include duties
118 of officers, a process for selecting officers, quorum requirements
119 for conducting business and policies for any council staff. Each
120 member of the council shall designate necessary staff of their
121 departments to assist the council in performing its duties and
122 responsibilities. The council shall meet and conduct business at
123 least quarterly. Meetings of the council shall be open to the
124 public and opportunity for public comment shall be made available

125 at each such meeting. The chairman of the council shall notify
126 all persons who request such notice as to the date, time and place
127 of each meeting.

128 (5) Members of the council shall receive no compensation for
129 their services.

130 (6) The council shall submit a report, including proposed
131 legislation if necessary, to the Governor and to the House and
132 Senate Health and Welfare Committees prior to the convening of the
133 2004 legislative session. Such report shall include a
134 comprehensive state plan for implementation of services and
135 programs in the State of Mississippi to increase prevention and
136 management of obesity in adults and children and an estimate of
137 the cost of implementation of such a plan.

138 (7) All departments, boards, agencies, officers and
139 institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall
140 cooperate with the council in carrying out its purposes pursuant
141 to this act.

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