

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Public Health and  
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2377

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXISTING  
2 VULNERABLE ADULT AND ELDERLY SERVICES IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR  
3 THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO  
4 SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATURE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
5 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that:

8 (a) Services to the elderly and vulnerable adults are  
9 reportedly inadequate in the State of Mississippi;

10 (b) The structure of the service delivery system is  
11 reportedly not efficient and effective for adequate implementation  
12 of services;

13 (c) No guardianship program exists in the State of  
14 Mississippi;

15 (d) Coordination of services is lacking and gaps exist  
16 regarding needed services to the elderly and vulnerable adults in  
17 the State of Mississippi;

18 (e) There is no funding for the Vulnerable Adults Act  
19 which was originally enacted in 1986; and

20 (f) Few services exist to aid families and care givers  
21 with the care of vulnerable adults and elderly family members  
22 which could prevent the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and  
23 the elderly.

24 SECTION 2. (1) There is hereby created a task force to  
25 study the existing vulnerable adult and elderly services in this  
26 state, specifically but not exclusively to:

27 (a) Determine the gaps and duplication in services to  
28 vulnerable adults and the elderly in this state;



- 29                   (b) Determine the barriers to service delivery;
- 30                   (c) Examine the structure of the current service  
31 delivery systems for effectiveness and efficiency;
- 32                   (d) Determine needed services and structural changes in  
33 the service delivery system;
- 34                   (e) Examine current prevention of abuse and neglect  
35 programs and services, i.e., adult foster care, respite care,  
36 adult day care, voluntary services, and care giver support groups;
- 37                   (f) Review existing programs, services and service  
38 delivery systems in other states; and
- 39                   (g) Review funding needs for implementation of the  
40 Vulnerable Adults Act and the creation of needed services, and to  
41 examine the need for a public guardianship in the state.
- 42           (2) The task force shall be composed of the following  
43 members:
- 44                   (a) One (1) member of the Senate to be appointed by the  
45 Lieutenant Governor;
- 46                   (b) One (1) member of the House of Representatives to  
47 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 48                   (c) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi  
49 Conference on Chancery Judges;
- 50                   (d) One (1) member selected by the American Association  
51 of Retired Persons;
- 52                   (e) One (1) member selected by the Association of  
53 Retarded Citizens;
- 54                   (f) One (1) member selected by the National Alliance  
55 for the Mentally Ill;
- 56                   (g) One (1) member selected by the Alzheimer's  
57 Association;
- 58                   (h) One (1) member selected by the Veterans of Foreign  
59 Wars Association;
- 60                   (i) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid;



61 (j) One (1) member representative from the Office of  
62 the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program;

63 (k) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Hospital  
64 Association;

65 (l) The Director of the Division of Family and  
66 Children's Services, Department of Human Services;

67 (m) The Director of the Adult and Aging Services,  
68 Department of Human Services;

69 (n) One (1) member selected by the National Association  
70 of Social Workers;

71 (o) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Medical  
72 Association;

73 (p) One (1) member selected by the Mississippi Chancery  
74 Clerk Association; and

75 (q) One (1) member selected by the Office of Rural  
76 Legal Services.

77 (3) Funding for the task force may be provided from any  
78 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature for that  
79 purpose, or from any funds available from other sources.

80 (4) Members of the board shall not receive any compensation  
81 or per diem, but may receive travel reimbursement provided in  
82 Section 25-3-41, except that the legislators shall receive per  
83 diem and expenses which shall be paid from the contingent expense  
84 funds of their respective houses in the same amount as provided  
85 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;  
86 however, no per diem and expenses for attending meetings of the  
87 task force shall be paid to legislators while the Legislature is  
88 in session.

89 (5) The task force shall submit to the Legislature on or  
90 before January 1, 2002, a report of its findings and  
91 recommendations, and upon filing the report, shall be dissolved.

92 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 2001.

