

By: Senator(s) Farris

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2918

1 AN ACT CREATING THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON PSYCHIATRIC
2 MEDICATION OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN; TO PRESCRIBE ITS DUTIES; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 WHEREAS, national medical reports indicate that psychiatric
6 drugs are prescribed to between five million and six million
7 children each year who represent about ten percent of the total
8 school-age population; and

9 WHEREAS, the International Narcotics Control Board of the
10 World Health Organization has reported that the united States is
11 among the leading users of psychiatric drugs and has warned us
12 against our national trend to overprescribe stimulants for
13 children; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Commission
16 on Psychiatric Medication of School-Age Children. The commission
17 shall be composed of twelve (12) members. Four (4) members of the
18 House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives and include a member of the House
20 Committee on Public Health and Welfare, and a member of the House
21 Committee on Education. Four (4) members of the Senate shall be
22 appointed by the President of the Senate and include a member of
23 the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and a member of the
24 Senate Education Committee. Four (4) members shall be appointed
25 by the Governor to represent state governmental services in the
26 areas of health, human resources, children services and education.

27 The Governor shall appoint the chairperson who shall call all
28 meetings and schedule the agenda of the commission.

29 (2) The commission shall undertake a study to investigate
30 the use of psychiatric medications and their effects on school-age
31 children of this state and to provide recommendations for improved
32 oversight of the prescribed use of narcotics among Mississippi's
33 youth. The commission may conduct meetings at such places and at
34 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to
35 exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
36 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
37 members of the commission shall serve without compensation;
38 provided, however that legislative members shall receive the
39 allowances authorized for legislative committees but shall receive
40 the same for not more than five (5) days unless additional days
41 are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions
42 of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the
43 Senate and House of Representatives contingent expense fund. In
44 the event the commission makes a report of its findings and
45 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if
46 any, such reports shall be made on or before December 1, 2001.
47 The commission shall stand abolished on December 1, 2001.

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