HOUSE BILL NO. 257

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT AS A REQUIREMENT FOR DOING BUSINESS IN THIS STATE, EVERY INSURANCE CARRIER SHALL EITHER INFORM ALL OF ITS POLICYHOLDERS OF THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OR OFFER COVERAGE THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT PROVIDED UNDER THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. As a requirement for doing business in this state, every insurance carrier shall either inform all its policyholders of the benefits available under the Children's Health Insurance Program as provided in Section 41-86-1 et seq., or offer coverage that is substantially the same as that provided to families with eligible children under the Children's Health Insurance Program.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.