To: Penitentiary

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE  REGULAR SESSION 2002
By: Representative Malone  To: Penitentiary

HOUSE BILL NO. 1293

AN ACT TO CREATE A COUNCIL TO STUDY PREVENTION OF HEPATITIS IN PRISONS AND THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH HEPATITIS IN PRISON; TO PROVIDE FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATE AGENCIES TO BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) There is created an Interagency Coordinating Council to study and to develop policies relating to hepatitis in prisons.

(2) The council shall consist of one (1) representative from each of the following agencies appointed by the executive director or commissioner of each agency:

(a) Mississippi Department of Corrections;
(b) State Department of Health;
(c) Office of the Attorney General;
(d) University of Mississippi Medical Center; and
(e) State Department of Human Services.

The representative from the Mississippi Department of Corrections shall serve as chairperson of the council.

(3) (a) The council shall meet at least once each quarter on meeting dates set by the council. Each agency that has a representative appointed to the council shall ensure that a representative of the agency attends at least three (3) quarterly meetings of the council each year.

(b) Members of the council may not receive per diem for attending council meetings.

(4) The council shall:
(a) Coordinate communication among the member agencies concerning each agency's programs in providing hepatitis services; and

(b) Develop a plan that facilitates coordination of agency programs for:

   (i) Prevention of hepatitis; and
   (ii) The provision of services to individuals who have hepatitis in prisons.

(5) Before September 1 of each even-numbered year, the council shall file a report with the Legislature and the Governor containing policy recommendations relating to:

   (a) Prevention of hepatitis in prisons; and
   (b) The delivery of health services to individuals who have hepatitis in prison.

(6) The council shall establish advisory committees composed of representatives from associations, consumer advocates and regulatory agencies, boards or commissions as needed to assist in carrying out its duties under this section.

(7) The Department of Corrections shall provide administrative support to the council.

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