

By: Representative Ford

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 777

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR THE REPEALER ON CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE  
3 TO THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-89-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 41-89-3. (1) The Chairman of the Infant Mortality Task  
8 Force shall be elected annually by the task force membership. The  
9 task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its efficient  
10 operation, which may include designation of its organizational  
11 structure including other officers and committees, duties of  
12 officers and committees, a process for selecting officers, quorum  
13 requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad hoc  
14 committees, staff policies and other such procedures as may be  
15 necessary. The task force may establish committees responsible  
16 for conducting specific task force programs or activities.

17 (2) The task force shall be assigned to the State Department  
18 of Health for administrative purposes only, and the department  
19 shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task force  
20 shall have a line item in the budget of the State Department of  
21 Health and shall be financed through the department's annual  
22 appropriation. Members of the task force may receive, within the  
23 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred  
24 while engaged in official business of the task force.

25 (3) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least  
26 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of  
27 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for



28 public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all  
29 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act  
30 (Section 25-41-1 et seq.) and appropriate notice also shall be  
31 given to all persons so requesting of the date, time and place of  
32 each meeting.

33 (4) The Infant Mortality Task Force, in conjunction with the  
34 State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the  
35 State Department of Education and the Division of Medicaid, shall  
36 develop and implement a campaign for intensive outreach to high  
37 risk populations in Mississippi to encourage them to avail  
38 themselves of family planning, prenatal care and infant health  
39 services.

40 (5) The Infant Mortality Task Force may apply for and expend  
41 grants or other contributions for the purpose of promoting  
42 maternal and infant health in Mississippi.

43 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2004.

44 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2003.

