

By: Representative Ford

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 777
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE REPEALER ON CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE INFANT
3 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, 2005.

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

