

By: Representative Moody

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 997

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE AUTOMATIC REPEALER ON THE STATUTE PROVIDING FOR THE
3 ORGANIZATION OF THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

44 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2005.

45 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
46 and after June 30, 2003.

