

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1245

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
2 MERGING VARIOUS STATE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
3 COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE
4 SHALL MAKE A REPORT OF ITS WORK TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE
5 GOVERNOR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2003; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to study the
8 feasibility of merging various state health care programs and
9 developing a comprehensive plan of service that would provide the
10 services currently provided by those health care programs. The
11 state health care programs that the task force shall study are the
12 Medicaid program, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
13 and the State and School Employees Health Insurance Program, and
14 the task force may include other state health care programs in its
15 study as deemed appropriate.

16 (2) The task force shall be composed of nine (9) members, as
17 follows:

18 (a) The Chairs of the Public Health and Welfare
19 Committee and the Insurance Committee of the House of
20 Representatives;

21 (b) The Chairs of the Public Health and Welfare
22 Committee and the Insurance Committee of the Senate; and

23 (c) Five (5) persons appointed by the Governor.

24 (3) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a chair
25 and vice chair from its membership, and shall adopt rules for
26 transacting its business and keeping records. Members of the task
27 force shall receive a per diem in the amount provided in Section
28 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business of the task force.



29 Members of the task force other than the legislative members shall
30 receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged
31 in official business of the task force in accordance with Section
32 25-3-41, and the legislative members of the task force shall
33 receive the expense allowance provided for in Section 5-1-47.

34 (4) Not later than December 1, 2003, the task force shall
35 make a report of its work and recommendations, and shall submit a
36 copy of the report to the Legislature and the Governor.

37 (5) The task force shall be assigned to the Governor's
38 Office for administrative purposes only, and the Governor's Office
39 shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task force
40 may solicit grants, donations and other funds, and may accept and
41 expend any funds that are made available to the task force to
42 carry out its purpose.

43 (6) All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of
44 the state, including the state universities and the community and
45 junior colleges, shall cooperate with the task force with such
46 assistance as requested by the task force.

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

