

By: Representative Fleming

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EXAMINATION OF THE  
2 HIGH COSTS OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO STATE AND COUNTY  
3 OFFENDERS AND CONSIDERATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE PLAN  
4 FOR ALL SUCH OFFENDERS.

5 WHEREAS, the soaring costs of health care for offenders in  
6 the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections and in  
7 county jails is a problem with significant financial implications  
8 in the State of Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, a recent example includes the shocking situation in  
10 which approximately Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00)  
11 was expended in caring for one (1) county prisoner at the  
12 University of Mississippi Medical Center before his death in 2002;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, present practices involve the Department of  
15 Corrections entering into contracts with the University of  
16 Mississippi Medical Center and others for the provision of health  
17 care services for offenders, with little or no oversight in the  
18 execution of those contracts; and

19 WHEREAS, in this time of a strained state budget and slow  
20 economic growth that is requiring cut-backs of an extreme nature,  
21 a review of the funds spent in the providing of health care  
22 services for offenders is in order; and

23 WHEREAS, as a part of such review, a prudent course of action  
24 is to carefully examine the costs of offenders' health care and  
25 consider a comprehensive plan to provide such care throughout the  
26 state in a uniform, efficient and cost-effective manner; and

27 WHEREAS, the Performance, Evaluation and Expenditure Review  
28 (PEER) Committee of the Mississippi State Legislature is equipped



29 to undertake the analysis of the costs of current health care  
30 services provided to offenders and determine what the elements of  
31 an improved comprehensive health care plan should be; and

32 WHEREAS, in setting the guidelines for a comprehensive health  
33 care plan, the PEER Committee should include a determination of  
34 what minimum standards are necessary from a medical and  
35 constitutional standpoint, with regard to the following elements:

36 (a) the multitude of standard diagnostic/intake services  
37 associated with admission screening, medical history and physical  
38 examination of state and county offenders; (b) the primary care  
39 services, as well as mental health services, pharmacy services,  
40 therapeutic diets, optometry services being provided to state and  
41 county offenders; (c) the secondary and tertiary services, such as  
42 hospital care, surgical services, dental care, referral services  
43 and specialty consultations being provided to state and county  
44 offenders; and (d) the most efficient and cost-effective manner in  
45 which to obtain such care for state and county offenders:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
47 REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That the  
48 Legislature requests that the PEER Committee engage in an analysis  
49 of the costs of health care services provided to state and county  
50 offenders and consider whether a comprehensive health care plan  
51 should be adopted, along with an outline of the elements of such a  
52 plan.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
54 provided to the PEER Committee, the Department of Corrections and  
55 the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

