

By: Representative Fleming

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 387

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY  
2 CONTRACEPTION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
3 AVAILABILITY INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS RELATING TO EMERGENCY  
4 CONTRACEPTION; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE HEALTH OFFICER TO ADOPT ANY  
5 NECESSARY RULES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Every hospital providing emergency care to a  
8 victim of sexual assault shall:

9 (a) Provide the victim with medically and factually  
10 accurate and unbiased written and oral information about emergency  
11 contraception;

12 (b) Orally inform each victim of sexual assault of her  
13 option to be provided emergency contraception at the hospital; and

14 (c) If not medically contraindicated, provide emergency  
15 contraception immediately at the hospital to each victim of sexual  
16 assault who requests it.

17 (2) The State Health Officer, in collaboration with  
18 community sexual assault programs and other relevant stakeholders,  
19 shall develop, prepare and produce informational materials  
20 relating to emergency contraception for the prevention of  
21 pregnancy in rape victims for distribution to and use in all  
22 emergency rooms in the state, in quantities sufficient to comply  
23 with the requirements of this section. The State Health Officer,  
24 in collaboration with community sexual assault programs and other  
25 relevant stakeholders, may also approve informational materials  
26 from other sources for the purposes of this section. The  
27 informational materials must be clearly written and readily  
28 comprehensible in a culturally competent manner, as the secretary,



29 in collaboration with community sexual assault programs and other  
30 relevant stakeholders, deems necessary to inform victims of sexual  
31 assault. The materials must explain the nature of emergency  
32 contraception, including that it is effective in preventing  
33 pregnancy, treatment options and where they can be obtained.

34 (3) The State Health Officer shall adopt rules necessary to  
35 implement this section.

36 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
37 and after July 1, 2004.

