

By: Representatives Holland, Scott

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1407

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI CLEARINGHOUSE FOR PEOPLE  
2 WITH DISABILITIES AND PROVIDE FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP; TO PRESCRIBE THE  
3 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following terms shall have the meanings  
6 ascribed in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

7 (a) "Clearinghouse" means the Mississippi Clearinghouse  
8 for People with Disabilities.

9 (b) "Director" means the Director of the Mississippi  
10 Clearinghouse for People with Disabilities.

11 (c) "People with disabilities" means individuals who  
12 have physical, sensory, cognitive or mental characteristics such  
13 as those listed under the definition of "handicapped person" in  
14 regular 28CFR 41.31 (b) for the implementation of Section 504 of  
15 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93-112).

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the Mississippi  
17 Clearinghouse for People with Disabilities to promote and  
18 facilitate the full participation of, and the creation and  
19 assurance of equal opportunities for, all people with  
20 disabilities.

21 (2) The goals and objectives of the clearinghouse shall  
22 include, but are not limited to, or provided in any priority  
23 order, the following:

24 (a) To be a comprehensive clearinghouse of information  
25 and initial point of contact for all people with disabilities  
26 related to potential service programs (including contact points,

27 eligibility criteria, service scope, budgets, waiting list),  
28 disability rights and relevant events;

29 (b) To collect, analyze and synthesize  
30 disability-related data (e.g., numbers and types of disability, in  
31 the state, their economic/school/employment/long-term care status)  
32 for use by state agencies, universities and colleges, disability  
33 organizations and private citizens;

34 (c) To advise the Governor, the Legislature, the  
35 Mississippi congressional delegation, state agencies, the business  
36 community, organized labor and other public and private groups and  
37 the general public on disability issues and concerns, and to make  
38 recommendations to address those identified matters, with emphasis  
39 on increasing opportunities for independence and employment;

40 (d) To coordinate and conduct public information  
41 activities to spotlight the skills and capabilities of people with  
42 disabilities to emphasize the actual and potential contributions  
43 of people with disabilities; and

44 (e) To establish such relationships with state  
45 agencies, especially those that serve the disability community,  
46 consumer/advocacy groups, local governments, private industry,  
47 educational institutions, labor and other private organizations,  
48 as may be needed to enhance equal opportunities for persons with  
49 disabilities.

50 (3) The clearinghouse shall be administered a statewide  
51 nonprofit cross disability advocacy organization selected by the  
52 Department of Finance and Administration after it issues and  
53 reviews a request for proposals from statewide nonprofit cross  
54 disability organizations to administer the clearinghouse.

55 (4) The State Department of Education, State Department of  
56 Health, Department of Human Services, Division of Medicaid, State  
57 Department of Mental Health and State Department of Rehabilitation  
58 Services may assist the clearinghouse to carry out its work.

59 These agencies may provide the clearinghouse with resources to  
60 facilitate its planning and coordinating efforts.

61         **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2004.