

By: Representative Warren

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 295

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH PROVIDES THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE DATE
3 OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION FROM JULY 1, 2005, TO JULY 1, 2007; TO
4 AMEND SECTION 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES
5 THE BYLAWS AND RULES OF SUCH TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF
6 REPEAL ON THIS SECTION FROM JULY 1, 2005, TO JULY 1, 2007; AND FOR
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-89-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 41-89-1. (1) There is created the Infant Mortality Task
12 Force, the purpose of which is to foster the reduction of infant
13 mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve the health
14 status of mothers and infants.

15 (2) The Infant Mortality Task Force is continued and
16 reconstituted as follows: The task force shall be composed of
17 eleven (11) voting members appointed as follows:

18 (a) The Governor shall appoint seven (7) members, with
19 two (2) from each Mississippi Supreme Court district and one (1)
20 from the state at large.

21 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint two (2)
22 members from the state at large.

23 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
24 appoint two (2) members from the state at large.

25 (d) The task force shall be comprised of persons with a
26 professional association with or special interest in maternal and
27 infant health and well-being.

28 (e) Any member of the Infant Mortality Task Force
29 appointed and serving prior to July 1, 1995, shall be eligible for
30 reappointment to the task force.

31 (3) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members for initial
32 terms that expire on June 30, 1996, two (2) members for initial
33 terms that expire on June 30, 1997, and three (3) members for
34 initial terms that expire on June 30, 1998. The Lieutenant
35 Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
36 one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30, 1997,
37 and one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30,
38 1998. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms of
39 three (3) years from the expiration of the previous term. No
40 member shall serve more than two (2) successive full terms. Any
41 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be
42 filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate appointing
43 authority. An appointment to fill an unexpired term shall not be
44 considered as a full term.

45 (4) The administrative head of the following state agencies
46 shall designate one (1) employee to serve in an advisory capacity
47 as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Infant Mortality Task
48 Force: (a) Mississippi Department of Health; (b) State Department
49 of Education; (c) Department of Human Services; (d) Mississippi
50 Department of Mental Health; (e) Division of Medicaid; and (f) the
51 University Medical Center. In addition there shall be one (1)
52 member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association who
53 shall serve in an advisory capacity as an ex officio nonvoting
54 member.

55 (5) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare
56 Committee and one (1) member of the committee to be designated by
57 the chairman, and the Chairman of the House Public Health and
58 Welfare Committee and one (1) member of the committee to be
59 designated by the chairman shall serve in an advisory capacity as
60 ex officio nonvoting members of the Infant Mortality Task Force.

61 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2007.

62 **SECTION 2.** Section 41-89-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
63 amended as follows:

64 41-89-3. (1) The Chairman of the Infant Mortality Task
65 Force shall be elected annually by the task force membership. The
66 task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its efficient
67 operation, which may include designation of its organizational
68 structure including other officers and committees, duties of
69 officers and committees, a process for selecting officers, quorum
70 requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad hoc
71 committees, staff policies and other such procedures as may be
72 necessary. The task force may establish committees responsible
73 for conducting specific task force programs or activities.

74 (2) The task force shall be assigned to the State Department
75 of Health for administrative purposes only, and the department
76 shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task force
77 shall have a line item in the budget of the State Department of
78 Health and shall be financed through the department's annual
79 appropriation. Members of the task force may receive, within the
80 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
81 while engaged in official business of the task force.

82 (3) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
83 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
84 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
85 public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all
86 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act
87 (Section 25-41-1 et seq.) and appropriate notice also shall be
88 given to all persons so requesting of the date, time and place of
89 each meeting.

90 (4) The Infant Mortality Task Force, in conjunction with the
91 State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the
92 State Department of Education and the Division of Medicaid, shall
93 develop and implement a campaign for intensive outreach to high

94 risk populations in Mississippi to encourage them to avail
95 themselves of family planning, prenatal care and infant health
96 services.

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

100 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2007.

101 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after July 1, 2005.