

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2511

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 41-89-1 AND 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE AUTOMATIC REPEALER ON THE STATUTES
3 CREATING THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

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

8 41-89-1. (1) There is created the Infant Mortality Task
9 Force, the purpose of which is to foster the reduction of infant
10 mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve the health
11 status of mothers and infants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 * * *

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

61 41-89-3. (1) The Chairman of the Infant Mortality Task
62 Force shall be elected annually by the task force membership. The
63 task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its efficient
64 operation, which may include designation of its organizational
65 structure including other officers and committees, duties of
66 officers and committees, a process for selecting officers, quorum
67 requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad hoc
68 committees, staff policies and other such procedures as may be
69 necessary. The task force may establish committees responsible
70 for conducting specific task force programs or activities.

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

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

87 (4) The Infant Mortality Task Force, in conjunction with the
88 State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the
89 State Department of Education and the Division of Medicaid, shall
90 develop and implement a campaign for intensive outreach to high
91 risk populations in Mississippi to encourage them to avail
92 themselves of family planning, prenatal care and infant health
93 services.

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

97 * * *

98 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after June 30, 2005.