

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2511
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 41-89-1 AND 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE AUTOMATIC REPEALER ON THE STATUTES
3 CREATING THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE; TO DIRECT THE TASK FORCE
4 TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON OXYGEN SATURATION TESTING OF NEWBORNS; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

59 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2006.

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

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

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

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

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

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

98 (6) The Infant Mortality Task Force shall conduct a study of
99 the utility of oxygen saturation as a screening test for critical
100 congenital heart disease in newborns, and shall make a report with
101 recommendations to the Chairman of the Senate Public Health and
102 Welfare Committee and the Chairman of the House Public Health and
103 Human Services Committee not later than December 1, 2005.

104 (7) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2006.

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