

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2931

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Mississippi
10 Disability Resource Commission. The function of the commission is
11 to:

12 (a) Assimilate and provide current information to
13 persons who need health, special education or disability
14 information or services;

15 (b) Refer those persons to the appropriate agencies to
16 receive needed information or services;

17 (c) Facilitate coordination of services provided by
18 agencies for the maximum benefit of persons who need health,
19 special education or disability services;

20 (d) Be a comprehensive clearinghouse of information and
21 single point of contact for people with disabilities related to
22 potential service programs; and

23 (e) Otherwise assist persons who need health, special
24 education or disability services in obtaining information and
25 services.

26 (2) The powers and duties of the Mississippi Disability
27 Resource Commission shall include, but are not limited to, or
28 provided in any priority order, the following:

29 (a) To collect and analyze health, special education
30 and disability-related data for use by state agencies,
31 universities and colleges, organizations and private citizens;

32 (b) To advise the Governor, the Legislature, the
33 Mississippi congressional delegation, state agencies, the business
34 community, other public and private groups and the general public

35 on health, special education and disability issues and concerns,
36 and to make recommendations to address those identified matters,
37 with emphasis on increasing opportunities for independence and
38 employment;

39 (c) To coordinate and conduct public relations
40 activities, including establishment of a permanent, statewide
41 toll-free phone line for people with disabilities seeking access
42 to services and programs, to promote the skills and capabilities
43 of persons needing health, special education or disability
44 services; and

45 (d) To submit an annual report to the Governor and to
46 the Legislature with recommendations to address the needs of
47 persons in Mississippi needing health, special education or
48 disability services, and other pertinent data regarding health,
49 special education or disability issues.

50 (3) The membership of the commission shall consist of
51 thirteen (13) members as follows:

52 (a) The Executive Director of the State Department of
53 Rehabilitation Services, or his or her designee;

54 (b) The Executive Director of the State Department of
55 Mental Health, or his or her designee;

56 (c) The Executive Officer of the State Department of
57 Health, or his or her designee;

58 (d) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
59 his or her designee;

60 (e) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid,
61 or his or her designee;

62 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
63 Services, or his or her designee; and

64 (g) Three (3) appointments by the Governor and two (2)
65 appointments each by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the
66 House of Representatives.

67 Each of the appointments referenced in paragraph (g) of this
68 subsection shall be a person with a disability, a representative
69 of a disability advocacy group, or the parent of a person with a

70 disability. Of these appointments, there shall be no more than
71 one (1) appointment from the same consumer organization or
72 advocacy group during the same term of appointment.

73 (4) Members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor
74 and Speaker of the House shall serve for terms that run
75 concurrently with the terms of office of the appointing officials.
76 An appointment to fill a vacancy, other than by expiration of a
77 term of office, shall be made for the balance of the unexpired
78 term.

79 (5) The members of the commission shall elect from their
80 membership the chairperson and vice chairperson of the commission.
81 The chairperson and vice chairperson shall be a member appointed
82 under subsection (3)(g) of this section and a member from a state
83 agency referenced in subsection (3)(a) through (f) of this
84 section. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall serve for
85 terms of one (1) year beginning on July 1 of each year, except
86 that the terms of the first chairperson and vice chairperson shall
87 begin on the date of their election to those positions. Each
88 year at the expiration of the terms of the chairperson and vice
89 chairperson, the vice chairperson during the preceding year shall
90 serve as chairperson for the next year, and a new vice chairperson
91 shall be elected according to the terms set forth in this
92 subsection.

93 (6) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and hold
94 other meetings as are necessary for the purpose of conducting
95 required business, not exceeding six (6) meetings in any one (1)
96 fiscal year. If funds are available for that purpose, the
97 appointed members of the commission may be paid per diem and
98 travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of Sections
99 25-3-69 and 25-3-41.

100 (7) The Mississippi Disability Resource Commission may
101 receive and expend any monies appropriated by the Legislature,
102 apply for and utilize grants, and receive gifts or any other
103 appropriate source of funds to carry out the duties of office.

104 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
105 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI DISABILITY RESOURCE
2 COMMISSION TO ASSIMILATE AND PROVIDE CURRENT INFORMATION, REFER
3 PERSONS TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, FACILITATE COORDINATION OF AGENCY
4 SERVICES, AND BE A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE AND
5 SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; TO PRESCRIBE
6 THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS AND
7 DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

HR40\SB2931PH.J

Don Richardson
Clerk of the House of Representatives