

By: Representative Carlton

To: Rules; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 843

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
2 THE STATE'S DISASTER PLANS IMPLEMENTED IN TIMES OF PENDING NATURAL
3 AND CATASTROPHIC DISASTER AND DECLARED STATES OF EMERGENCY AND TO
4 MAKE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to study the
8 effectiveness of the state's disaster plans implemented in times
9 of impending natural and catastrophic disaster and declared states
10 of emergency. The task force shall make a report of its findings
11 and recommendations to the Mississippi State Legislature by
12 September 1, 2006, including any recommended legislation.

13 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following ten
14 (10) members:

15 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
16 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House
17 of Representatives;

18 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
19 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi;

20 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor of the
21 State of Mississippi; and

22 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency
23 Management Agency.

24 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
25 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days
26 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
27 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force shall meet and
28 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice

29 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
30 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
31 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
32 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
33 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
34 of the task force shall be required. All members shall be
35 notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at
36 least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to
37 be held.

38 (4) The task force shall study and make recommendations
39 regarding potential legalization addressing the effectiveness of
40 the state's disaster plans implemented in times of impending
41 natural and catastrophic disaster and declared states of
42 emergency. The task force, in coordination with various state
43 agencies, including the Department of Human Services, the State
44 Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department
45 of Insurance, the Mississippi Military Department, the Mississippi
46 Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Department of
47 Public Safety, shall establish working relationships with
48 nongovernment organizations, private relief organizations and
49 civil defense organizations to better effectuate the study and to
50 recommend viable solutions for more effective disaster plans.

51 (5) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state
52 officials or state employees shall be compensated at the per diem
53 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in
54 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
55 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members
56 of the task force shall be paid from the contingent expense funds
57 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for
58 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session.
59 However, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task
60 force will be paid to legislative members of the task force while
61 the Legislature is in session. No task force member may incur per

62 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by
63 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be
64 recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative
65 members shall be paid from any funds made available to the task
66 force for that purpose.

67 (6) The task force shall use any staff assistance made
68 available to it. To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
69 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
70 state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
71 request of the chairman of the task force, provide to the task
72 force such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task
73 force properly to carry out its task.

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