

By: Representatives Evans, Franks, Holland,  
Moss, Straughter

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE  
2 SAFETY AND HEALTHFULNESS OF WORKING CONDITIONS IN MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this state to assure so far as  
4 possible safe and healthful working conditions for every working  
5 person in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the Legislature seeks to further the advances  
7 already made through employer and employee initiatives providing  
8 safe and healthful working conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the separate but  
10 dependent responsibilities and rights that employers and employees  
11 have with respect to achieving safe and healthful working  
12 conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the state's interest and  
14 responsibility to promote and preserve Mississippi's human  
15 resources by instituting new programs and perfecting existing  
16 programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That a House study  
19 committee is created to study the need and feasibility of  
20 establishing within the State Department of Health an office to  
21 set mandatory occupational safety and health standards applicable  
22 to businesses.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House shall  
24 appoint members of the committee. After the members are  
25 appointed, the membership shall meet on a date mutually agreed  
26 upon by a majority of the members for the purposes of organizing  
27 the committee and establishing rules for transacting its business

28 and keeping records. A majority of members of the committee shall  
29 constitute a quorum at all committee meetings. An affirmative  
30 vote of a majority of the members present and voting shall be  
31 required in the adoption of rules, resolutions, reports and in any  
32 other actions taken by the committee. All members of the  
33 committee shall be notified in writing of all regular and special  
34 meetings of the committee, which notices shall be mailed at least  
35 five days before the date of the meetings. The committee shall  
36 hold a minimum of four regular meetings.

37 The committee is directed to receive expert testimony,  
38 information and recommendations related to:

39 (a) The field of occupational safety and health, including  
40 psychological factors, and currently accepted methods, techniques  
41 and approaches for dealing with occupational safety and health  
42 problems;

43 (b) Current practices for the identification of casual  
44 connections between diseases and work in environmental conditions,  
45 as distinguished from occupational safety;

46 (c) The adoption of medical criteria which can assure,  
47 insofar as practicable, that no employee will suffer diminished  
48 health, functional capacity or life expectancy as a result of work  
49 experience;

50 (d) The establishment of training programs to increase the  
51 number and competence of Department of Health personnel engaged in  
52 the field of occupational safety and health; and

53 (e) The administration and enforcement of the Federal  
54 Occupational Safety and Health Act, known as OSHA, by the State  
55 Department of Health.

56 The committee shall make a written report, with findings and  
57 recommendations including, but not limited to, its discovery of  
58 appropriate procedures with respect to current and accepted  
59 occupational safety and health practices, an accurate description  
60 of the nature of current occupational safety and health programs

61 in Mississippi, an accurate description of the nature of existing  
62 occupational safety and health programs in Mississippi, an  
63 accurate description of the nature of existing occupational safety  
64 and health problems in Mississippi and a detailed analysis of  
65 testimony, statements and opinion of the advantages and  
66 disadvantages of implementing, administering and enforcing the  
67 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to the Mississippi  
68 House of Representatives by January 1 of each year. The report  
69 shall include an estimate of the projected cost of implementing,  
70 administering and enforcing its recommendations as well as the  
71 projected cost of implementing, administering and enforcing the  
72 "Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970."

73 For attending the meetings of the committee, each member  
74 shall be paid, from the Contingent Expense Fund, per diem  
75 compensation in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69,  
76 Mississippi Code of 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense  
77 allowance in the amount authorized by Section 51-1-47, Mississippi  
78 Code of 1972. However, no per diem compensation, mileage  
79 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending  
80 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and  
81 no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance  
82 shall be paid without prior approval of the proper committee.

83 All expenses incurred by or on behalf of the committee shall  
84 be paid from funds made available by the House Management  
85 Committee from the Contingent Expense Fund, from any funds  
86 appropriated for the purpose of this resolution and from any  
87 grants or contributions made to the committee for its purpose.

88 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the  
89 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of  
90 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state.