

By: Senator(s) Harden, Williamson, Jordan,  
Jackson (11th), Thomas

To: Public Health and  
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2916

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN  
3 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 71-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 71-1-1. The state board of health is directed to establish  
8 an occupational health and safety program and is empowered:

9 (a) To employ such qualified personnel as staff to  
10 carry out the duties and responsibilities set forth herein;

11 (b) To develop and make available upon request to all  
12 employers of the state, including public employers, information,  
13 consultation and assistance related to safety and health laws,  
14 regulations, measures and standards; to participate and assist  
15 with training and educational programs, directed toward employee  
16 safety and disease prevention;

17 (c) To employ such personnel and procure such equipment  
18 as necessary to provide on-site consultive services related to  
19 assistance, information, education or training of employers and  
20 employees toward compliance with safety and health standards and  
21 toward the establishment of safety and health programs to prevent  
22 work-connected disabilities;

23 (d) To collect, compile and report statistics related  
24 to work-connected disabilities in Mississippi; such statistical  
25 work shall be performed in cooperation with other  
26 statistic-gathering agencies with the federal and state

27 governments. Such statistical reports as may be available shall  
28 be made known to employers and employees.

29 (e) To receive such federal or state grants and  
30 appropriations as available to further the education, training and  
31 assistance to the employers and employees of Mississippi in  
32 preventing work-connected disabilities.

33 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as  
34 authorizing the state board of health to administer or enforce in  
35 any way the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, known as  
36 OSHA.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after July 1, 2006.