

By: Representative Holland

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1137

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-111-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO SPECIFY THE VARIOUS AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS FROM WHICH THE CHILD
3 DEATH REVIEW PANEL MAY OBTAIN THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE
4 REVIEW PANEL TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-111-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 41-111-1. (1) There is created the Child Death Review
9 Panel, whose primary purpose is to foster the reduction of infant
10 and child mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve
11 the health status of infants and children.

12 (2) The Child Death Review Panel shall be composed of
13 fifteen (15) voting members: the State Medical Examiner or his
14 representative, a pathologist on staff at the University of
15 Mississippi Medical Center, an appointee of the Lieutenant
16 Governor, an appointee of the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives, and one (1) representative from each of the
18 following: the State Coroners Association, the Mississippi
19 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Office of Vital
20 Statistics in the State Department of Health, the Attorney
21 General's Office, the State Sheriff's Association, the Mississippi
22 Police Chiefs Association, the Department of Human Services, the
23 Children's Advocacy Center, the State Chapter of the March of
24 Dimes, the State SIDS Alliance, and Compassionate Friends.

25 (3) The Chairman of the Child Death Review Panel shall be
26 elected annually by the Review Panel membership. The Review Panel
27 shall develop and implement such procedures and policies necessary
28 for its operation, including obtaining and protecting confidential

29 records from the agencies and officials specified in subsection
30 (4) of this section. The Review Panel shall be assigned to the
31 State Medical Examiner's Office for administrative purposes only,
32 and the Medical Examiner shall designate staff to assist the
33 Review Panel.

34 (4) The Child Death Review Panel shall submit a report
35 annually to the Chairmen of the House Public Health and Human
36 Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare
37 Committee on or before December 1. The report shall include the
38 numbers, causes and relevant demographic information on child and
39 infant deaths in Mississippi, and appropriate recommendations to
40 the Legislature on how to most effectively direct state resources
41 to decrease infant and child deaths in Mississippi. Data for the
42 Review Panel's review and reporting shall be provided to the
43 Review Panel, upon the request of the Review Panel, by the State
44 Medical Examiner's Office, State Department of Health, Department
45 of Human Services, medical examiners, coroners, health care
46 providers, law enforcement agencies, any other agencies or
47 officials having information that is necessary for the Review
48 Panel to carry out its duties under this section. The State
49 Medical Examiner's Office shall also be responsible for printing
50 and distributing the annual report(s) on child and infant deaths
51 in Mississippi.

52 (5) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2007.