

By: Representative Hines

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1276

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL
2 ESTABLISH THE WISEWOMAN PROGRAM AND THE WISEMAN PROGRAM, THE
3 PURPOSES AND GOALS OF WHICH ARE TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCES OF
4 CERTAIN CHRONIC DISEASES AMONG MISSISSIPPIANS THROUGH EDUCATION,
5 PREVENTION AND EARLY SCREENING AND DETECTION; TO AUTHORIZE THE
6 DEPARTMENT, IN IMPLEMENTING THOSE PROGRAMS, TO CONTRACT WITH
7 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CLINICS OR AGENCIES THAT HAVE DEMONSTRATED
8 SUCCESS IN REDUCING INCIDENCES OF THOSE CHRONIC DISEASES THROUGH
9 EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND EARLY SCREENING AND DETECTION; TO DIRECT
10 THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE NOT LESS THAN A CERTAIN SUM
11 ANNUALLY FROM THE HEALTH CARE EXPENDABLE FUND TO THE STATE
12 DEPARTMENT TO BE EXPENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THOSE PROGRAMS; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature makes the following
16 findings:

17 (a) Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent,
18 costly and preventable of all health problems.

19 (b) Screening tests are currently available that can
20 detect heart disease, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal
21 cancer, prostate cancer and other chronic diseases early, when
22 they can be most effectively treated, managed or controlled.

23 (c) The risk factors for many chronic diseases can be
24 addressed and reduced through education about those risk factors
25 and the importance of actions that can be taken for prevention of
26 chronic diseases.

27 (d) People should partner with their health care
28 providers to have their risk factors assessed, monitored and
29 managed in accordance with national guidelines, and should be
30 educated about the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke
31 and the importance of getting help quickly at the onset of those
32 symptoms.

33 (e) Mississippi should have programs that are
34 specifically designed to reduce the incidences of chronic diseases
35 among our population.

36 (2) The State Department of Health shall establish the
37 WISEWOMAN program and the WISEMAN program, the purposes and goals
38 of which are to reduce the incidences of certain chronic diseases
39 among Mississippians through education, prevention and early
40 screening and detection. The focus of the WISEWOMAN program shall
41 be heart disease, stroke, breast cancer, cervical cancer and
42 colorectal cancer in women, and the focus of the WISEMAN program
43 shall be heart disease, stroke, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer
44 and diabetes in men. At a minimum, the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN
45 programs shall:

46 (a) Provide for education about healthy behaviors and
47 how to reduce the risk factors for those chronic diseases;

48 (b) Provide for screening and testing to detect those
49 chronic diseases early when they can be effectively treated,
50 managed or controlled; and

51 (c) Be directed toward those populations at greatest
52 need and be based on a foundation of scientific evidence.

53 (3) In implementing the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN programs, the
54 department shall contract with public or private clinics or
55 agencies that have demonstrated success in reducing incidences of
56 those chronic diseases through education, prevention and early
57 screening and detection.

58 (4) The Legislature shall appropriate not less than Two
59 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) annually from the Health Care
60 Expendable Fund to the State Department of Health to be expended
61 by the department exclusively for implementing the WISEWOMAN and
62 WISEMAN programs.

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