

By: Representative Holland

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 76

1 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE HOUSE ASTHMA STRATEGIC PLANNING  
2 STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE BURDEN OF ASTHMA IN CHILDREN AND  
3 ADULTS IN MISSISSIPPI AND PRIORITIZE THE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE  
4 BURDEN OF THE DISEASE.

5 WHEREAS, asthma is one of the most chronic health conditions  
6 in the world, affecting over 20 million people in the United  
7 States and 325,687 in Mississippi in 2003; and

8 WHEREAS, asthma is the Number One reason for school  
9 absenteeism in Mississippi and nationwide; and

10 WHEREAS, asthma is responsible for more than 500,000  
11 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths nationwide; and

12 WHEREAS, asthma costs our nation approximately \$11 billion  
13 per year in health care costs; and

14 WHEREAS, asthma results in almost \$5 billion in additional  
15 costs due to worker absenteeism and lost productivity nationwide;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, asthma is the most common childhood disorder,  
18 affecting approximately 12.8% (96,835) of children under 18 years  
19 of age in Mississippi in 2003; and

20 WHEREAS, asthma accounted for 3,585 emergency room visits in  
21 children under 15 years old in 2003; and

22 WHEREAS, 237 Mississippians died due to asthma between 1999  
23 and 2003, including 11 children under 15 years old; and

24 WHEREAS, asthma prevalence is higher in Mississippians with  
25 lower incomes, those with less than high school education, adult  
26 females and nonwhite adults:

27           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
28 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That there is created  
29 the House Asthma Strategic Planning Study Committee, which shall  
30 study the burden of asthma in children and adults in Mississippi,  
31 and prioritize the strategies to reduce the burden of the disease  
32 as provided in the Mississippi State Asthma Plan 2006-2010, set  
33 forth by the statewide Asthma Coalition of Mississippi, to address  
34 asthma through a collaborative public health approach thereby  
35 improving the health status of Mississippians with asthma.

36           The study committee shall consist of four members of the  
37 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, and one member  
38 or representative of each of the following agencies and  
39 organizations: State Department of Health - Asthma Program,  
40 Division of Medicaid, Mississippi Department of Environmental  
41 Quality, State Department of Education - Superintendent's office,  
42 Mississippi School Nurse Association, American Lung Association of  
43 Mississippi, State and School Employees Life and Health Insurance  
44 Plan, Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,  
45 and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

46           Within thirty days after adoption of this resolution, the  
47 Speaker shall appoint the House members of the study committee and  
48 the agencies and organizations having members or representatives  
49 on the committee shall designate their member or representative to  
50 the committee. Within fifteen days after the period designated  
51 for making appointments, on a day to be designated by the Speaker,  
52 the committee shall meet and organize by selecting from its  
53 membership a chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman will  
54 serve as secretary and is responsible for keeping all records of  
55 the committee. A majority of the members of the committee  
56 constitutes a quorum. An affirmative vote of a majority of the  
57 committee is required in the transaction of all business. All  
58 members must be notified in writing of all meetings, and those

59 notices must be mailed at least five days before the date on which  
60 a meeting is to be held.

61 Members of the study committee who are not legislators, state  
62 officials or state employees shall be compensated at the per diem  
63 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in  
64 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses  
65 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members  
66 of the committee shall be paid from the contingent expense funds  
67 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for  
68 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;  
69 however, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the  
70 committee may be paid while the Legislature is in session. A  
71 committee member may not incur per diem, travel or other expenses  
72 unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the  
73 committee, which action must be recorded in the official minutes  
74 of the meeting. Nonlegislative members will be paid from any  
75 funds made available to the committee for that purpose.

76 The study committee shall make a report of its findings and  
77 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the  
78 House of Representatives before December 1, 2007. Upon  
79 presentation of its report to the House, the committee shall be  
80 dissolved.