

By: Representatives Upshaw, Coleman (29th),
Wooten

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 730
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION TASK FORCE;
2 TO SPECIFY THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the
5 second most common cancer in women worldwide, and ninety-nine and
6 seven-tenths percent (99-7/10%) of cervical cancer cases are
7 linked to HPV (human papillomavirus); and

8 WHEREAS, HPV is a very common infection, and according to
9 federal governmental statistics, cervical cancer is the third most
10 common gynecological cancer among American women, with
11 approximately twelve thousand two hundred (12,200) new cases
12 diagnosed annually, four thousand one hundred (4,100) of which
13 result in fatalities; and

14 WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority
15 women, in the United States, African-American women have the
16 highest age-adjusted mortality rate from cervical cancer and are
17 followed by Latino-American women. Among women thirty (30)
18 through fifty-four (54) years old, Vietnamese women have the
19 highest incidence, followed by Latino-American women and
20 African-American women; and

21 WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer
22 is highly preventable, and widespread screening programs have
23 helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical cancer, but
24 women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques
25 and evaluation procedures; and



26 WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer
27 awareness among women, significantly reduces the probability of
28 mortality; and

29 WHEREAS, approximately one-half (1/2) of all cervical cancer
30 cases are in women who have never been screened, and ten percent
31 (10%) of cases are in women who have not been screened within the
32 last five (5) years; and

33 WHEREAS, new screening technologies now available and
34 vaccines that are in development, offer new methods in preventing
35 and controlling the risk of cervical cancer; and

36 WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the
37 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American
38 Cancer Society and the Association of Reproductive Health
39 Professionals, have recently updated their screening guidelines to
40 include FDA-approved testing for HPV; and

41 WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer
42 information so that they can be empowered to make health care
43 decisions; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

45 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Cervical Cancer
46 Elimination Task Force, which shall have the following duties:

47 (a) Review data regarding cervical cancer and human
48 papillomavirus (HPV) of women within all states and territories of
49 the United States;

50 (b) Evaluate current methods used to provide women with
51 information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular screening
52 and options for increasing use of new technology to test for and
53 prevent HPV; and

54 (c) Identify pockets of need, priority strategies and
55 new technologies, including newly introduced therapies and
56 preventative vaccines that are effective in preventing and
57 controlling the risk of cervical cancer.



58 The task force shall make a report of its findings and
59 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2008, including
60 any recommended legislation.

61 (2) The task force shall be composed of six (6) members, as
62 follows:

63 (a) One (1) member of the Public Health and Human
64 Services Committee of the House of Representatives appointed by
65 the Speaker of the House;

66 (b) One (1) member of the Public Health and Welfare
67 Committee of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

68 (c) One (1) member who is a representative of the
69 University of Mississippi Medical Center Cancer Center;

70 (d) One (1) member who is a physician who is
71 board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology appointed by the
72 Governor;

73 (e) One (1) member who is the Director of the
74 Mississippi Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program of
75 the State Department of Health; and

76 (f) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Chapter
77 of the American Cancer Society, or his or her designee.

78 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
79 the effective date of this act. Within fifteen (15) days
80 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
81 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force shall meet and
82 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice
83 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
84 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
85 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
86 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
87 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
88 of the task force shall be required. All members shall be
89 notified in writing of all meetings, and those notices shall be



90 mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a
91 meeting is to be held.

92 (4) The members of the task force shall receive no per diem,
93 travel or other expenses for attending meetings of the task force.

94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2008.

