

By: Representatives Scott, Coleman (65th)

To: Public Health and Human
ServicesHOUSE BILL NO. 612
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY COMMISSION; TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING AND
3 STREAMLINING THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO
4 MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN; TO PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE
5 COMMISSION; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
6 AND CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER
7 1 OF EACH YEAR; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ADOPT INTERNAL
8 ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF
9 THE COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH
10 SUBCOMMITTEES FOR CONDUCTING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES; TO
11 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO CREATE RESOURCE MAPS OF ALL FUNDS
12 RECEIVED FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN IN THIS
13 STATE, TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
14 AND TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF MERGING, CONTINUING OR
15 DISCONTINUING THOSE PROGRAMS OR SERVICES; TO REQUIRE ALL AGENCIES,
16 DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE
17 THAT PROVIDE PROGRAMS OR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN THIS STATE TO
18 CREATE AN ITEMIZED LIST OF THOSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND TO
19 COOPERATE WITH THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT
20 THE ITEMIZED LISTS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO
21 THE JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT MISSISSIPPI STATE
22 UNIVERSITY NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR; TO PROVIDE
23 THAT THE STENNIS INSTITUTE SHALL COMPILE THE INFORMATION IN THOSE
24 LISTS INTO ONE DOCUMENT, AND PROVIDE THE COMPILED INFORMATION TO
25 THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY COMMISSION NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1 OF
26 EACH YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

28 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Children's Advocacy
29 Commission, which is charged with coordinating and streamlining
30 the state's efforts to provide needed services to Mississippi's
31 children. The commission shall focus on a broad range of issues
32 and challenges, including fighting abuse and neglect, promoting
33 foster care and adoption, and raising public awareness of
34 children's issues.

35 (2) The commission shall have seventeen (17) members,
36 consisting of the following:



- 37 (a) One (1) person appointed by the Governor who has
38 demonstrated a strong commitment to and understanding of the
39 challenges and issues affecting Mississippi's children;
- 40 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
41 Services, or his designee;
- 42 (c) A representative from a Mississippi public school
43 program, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 44 (d) A representative from a Mississippi private school
45 program, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;
- 46 (e) The Executive Director of the State Department of
47 Health, or his designee;
- 48 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of
49 Mental Health, or his designee;
- 50 (g) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his
51 designee;
- 52 (h) The Executive Director of the State Board for
53 Community and Junior Colleges, or his designee;
- 54 (i) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
55 his designee;
- 56 (j) A member of the Mississippi Association of
57 Counselor Educators and Supervisors;
- 58 (k) A member of the Mississippi School Counselors
59 Association;
- 60 (l) A member of the Mississippi Community and Junior
61 College Counselors Association;
- 62 (m) A member of the Mississippi Association of Social
63 Workers;
- 64 (n) A member of the Mississippi Association of Marriage
65 and Family Therapists;
- 66 (o) A member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care
67 Association;
- 68 (p) A member of the Mississippi State Workforce
69 Investment Board; and



70 (g) A member of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing
71 Association.

72 (3) The commission shall conduct its first meeting not
73 later than August 1, 2010. During its first meeting, the
74 commission shall choose a chairperson, a vice chairperson and a
75 secretary by majority vote, who shall serve in these positions for
76 twelve (12) months. The commission shall vote on these positions
77 annually. After the commission holds its first meeting, it shall
78 meet at such times and places as determined by its chairperson or
79 a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall
80 meet and conduct business at least quarterly.

81 The commission shall adopt internal organizational
82 procedures necessary for the efficient operation of the commission
83 and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific programs
84 and activities. The procedures must include duties of officers, a
85 process for selecting officers, duties of subcommittees, quorum
86 requirements for conducting business and policies for any staff.
87 Members of the commission who are agency or department employees
88 shall designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the
89 commission in performing its duties and responsibilities.

90 Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public, and
91 opportunity for public comment must be made available at each
92 meeting. The staff of the commission shall notify all persons who
93 request that notice as to the date, time and place of each
94 meeting.

95 (4) The commission shall have the following duties:

96 (a) Design and oversee an itemized resource mapping of
97 all federal and state funding sources that support the health,
98 safety, permanence, growth, development and education of children
99 in this state from conception through the age of majority;

100 (b) Assess the effectiveness of programs and services
101 provided by agencies, departments, institutions and political
102 subdivisions of the state that receive federal and state funds for



103 the health, safety, permanence, growth, development and education
104 of children in this state from conception through the age of
105 majority;

106 (c) Determine the feasibility of merging, continuing or
107 discontinuing the existence of those programs and services
108 provided by agencies, departments, institutions or political
109 subdivisions of the state;

110 (d) File a report with the Chairperson and Vice
111 Chairperson of the Appropriations, Education and Public Health and
112 Human Services Committees of the Mississippi House of
113 Representatives, and the Appropriations, Education and Public
114 Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi Senate by
115 December 1 of each year; and

116 (e) Conduct a meeting with the report to the
117 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Appropriations, Education
118 and Public Health and Human Services Committees of the Mississippi
119 House of Representatives, and the Appropriations, Education and
120 Public Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi Senate to
121 explain the statewide impact of the report by December 15 of each
122 year.

123 (5) The resource mapping required by subsection (4) of this
124 section shall provide:

125 (a) An inventory of all federal and state funding
126 sources that support children in this state;

127 (b) An inventory of all state, federal or government
128 subsidized services and programs offered to children in this
129 state, set out by program, target population, geographical region,
130 agency or any other grouping that would assist the commission in
131 determining whether there are overlapping programs that lead to
132 duplication within the state, gaps in service delivery and any
133 administrative inefficiencies generally;

134 (c) A description of the manner in which the funds are
135 being used within the agencies or organizations, the performance



136 measures in place to assess the use of such funding, the intended
137 outcomes of the programs and services and the actual outcomes of
138 the programs and services;

139 (d) Government mandates for the use of the funds, if
140 any; and

141 (e) An inventory of the funds for which the state may
142 be eligible, but is currently not receiving or using, and the
143 reasons why the funds are not being used.

144 (6) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
145 for their service on the panel but may receive reimbursement for
146 travel expenses incurred while engaged in the official business of
147 the commission.

148 **SECTION 2.** (1) All agencies, departments, institutions and
149 political subdivisions of the state that provide programs or
150 services to children in this state shall create an itemized list
151 of those programs and services, an itemized resource map of all
152 federal and state funding sources received for those programs and
153 services, any costs associated with operating those programs and
154 services and the number of children served by those programs and
155 services and provide the lists to the John C. Stennis Institute of
156 Government at Mississippi State University September 1 of each
157 year. The Stennis Institute shall compile and organize the
158 information in those lists into one (1) document and shall provide
159 the compiled information to the Children's Advocacy Commission not
160 later than November 1 of each year.

161 (2) All agencies, departments, institutions and political
162 subdivisions of the state shall cooperate with the Children's
163 Advocacy Commission in fulfilling its duties. The information
164 required by this section shall be updated and provided to the
165 Children's Advocacy Commission not later than September 1 of each
166 year.

167 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
168 and after July 1, 2010.

