

By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2645

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF CHAPTER 552, LAWS OF 2009, TO  
2 CONTINUE THE EXISTENCE OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON  
3 IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IN MISSISSIPPI; TO AUTHORIZE  
4 THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
5 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Chapter 552, Laws of 2009, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 1. (1) There is created a Joint Legislative Study  
10 Committee to study and make recommendations for improving the  
11 mental health system in Mississippi. The committee shall, at a  
12 minimum, examine the following topics:

13 (a) The current delivery system of mental health  
14 services by state, regional and local public entities;

15 (b) The structure of the State Department of Mental  
16 Health, including the makeup of the State Board of Mental Health  
17 and the qualifications of the executive director of the  
18 department;

19 (c) The delivery of mental health services through a  
20 community-based system rather than an institutional-based system,  
21 focusing on delivery through the community mental health  
22 centers; \* \* \*

23 (d) The disparity of services and programs within the  
24 different community mental health regions as they are currently  
25 comprised;

26 (e) The options and solutions for ongoing and long-term  
27 financing of the community mental health system;



28           (f) The organizational structure of the community  
29 mental health system, including the makeup of the commissions and  
30 the governing authority of each community mental health region;  
31 and

32           (g) Any other matters of importance relating to the  
33 delivery of mental health services in the state.

34           (2) The joint committee shall be composed of the following  
35 ten (10) members:

36           (a) The Chairman of the House Public Health and Human  
37 Services Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Public Health  
38 and Welfare Committee, who will be the cochairmen of the joint  
39 committee;

40           (b) The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee,  
41 or his designee;

42           (c) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations  
43 Committee, or his designee;

44           (d) Three (3) senators to be appointed by the  
45 Lieutenant Governor; and

46           (e) Three (3) representatives to be appointed by the  
47 Speaker of the House.

48           (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after  
49 the effective date of this section. The first meeting of the  
50 committee shall be held on a day to be designated jointly by the  
51 Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor. A majority of  
52 the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. In the  
53 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of  
54 a majority of the members of each house shall be required.

55           (4) Members of the committee shall be paid from the  
56 contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the same  
57 manner as provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is  
58 not in session, but only if specifically authorized by the Rules  
59 Committee of the respective house; however, no per diem or expense  
60 for attending meetings of the committee may be paid while the



61 Legislature is in session. \* \* \* Members of the committee may  
62 receive per diem and expenses when the Legislature is in session  
63 but in recess under the terms of a concurrent resolution, or in  
64 recess during a special session, but only if specifically  
65 authorized by the Rules Committee of the respective house.

66 (5) The committee shall make an initial report of its  
67 findings and recommendations to the Legislature not later than  
68 December 1, 2009 \* \* \*. The committee shall continue in existence  
69 and study the issues specified under this section and shall make a  
70 report of its findings and recommendations not later than January  
71 2011, including any recommended legislation. At the time of  
72 submission of its final report, the committee shall be dissolved.

73 (6) (a) The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the  
74 House of Representatives may jointly appoint not more than twelve  
75 (12) members to an advisory council to the joint committee. The  
76 members of the advisory committee appointed in 2009 shall continue  
77 to serve in 2010-2011 as long as the committee continues in  
78 existence.

79 (b) The members of the advisory council shall either be  
80 engaged professionally in rendering mental health services or  
81 general medical services or be consumers of mental health services  
82 or representatives of those consumers.

83 (c) The advisory council may meet with the Joint  
84 Legislative Study Committee and may hold special meetings as  
85 deemed necessary.

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
87 and after its passage.

