

By: Representative Barker

To: Public Health and Human
ServicesHOUSE BILL NO. 1170
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
2 STUDY AREAS OF THIS STATE THAT ARE UNDERSERVED IN THE RETAIL OF
3 AVAILABILITY OF HEALTHY FOODS AND THE IMPACT OF THE LIMITED RETAIL
4 AVAILABILITY OF SUCH FOODS ON PROPER NUTRITION AND ON OBESITY AND
5 RELATED CHRONIC ILLNESSES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
6 ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TO SET FORTH THE DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY
7 COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created an advisory committee to
10 study and provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding the
11 areas of this state that are underserved in the retail
12 availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy
13 foods and the impact of the limited retail availability of such
14 foods on proper nutrition and on obesity and related chronic
15 illnesses, including heart attacks and diabetes.

16 (2) The advisory committee shall consist of the following
17 fifteen (15) members:

18 (a) The State Health Officer, or his designee;

19 (b) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid,
20 or his designee;

21 (c) One (1) person who is a member of a county board of
22 supervisors, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

23 (d) One (1) person who is a mayor of a municipality, to
24 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

25 (e) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, or
26 his designee;

27 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
28 Services, or his designee;



(g) The Chairman of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee;

(h) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee;

(i) The Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee;

(j) The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee;

(k) Two (2) other members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(l) Two (2) other members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

(m) A registered dietitian or nutritionist, appointed by the Governor.

(3) In appointing members of the advisory committee, an appointing authority shall ensure that the members reflect the diversity of this state, with members representing:

(a) Rural areas;

(b) Urban areas; and

(c) Different geographical regions of the state.

(4) An advisory committee member is not entitled to reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

(5) The advisory committee shall meet not later than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act and shall select a chairman. The committee shall meet regularly as necessary at the call of the chairman.

(6) The advisory committee shall:

(a) Investigate the retail availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods in this state;

(b) Develop recommendations for creating and a plan for implementing a statewide financing program to bring fresh food retailers into areas of this state that are underserved in regard to the retail availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods; and



62 (c) Perform other advisory duties regarding the
63 availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy
64 foods in this state.

65 (7) The advisory committee shall submit a report to the
66 Legislature not later than December 1, 2011, providing information
67 relating to:

68 (a) The costs, benefits, and feasibility of a statewide
69 financing program to bring fresh food retailers into areas of this
70 state that are underserved in regard to the retail availability of
71 fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods; and

72 (b) A plan for implementing the program.

73 (8) To effectuate the work of the advisory committee, any
74 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
75 state or of any political subdivision thereof, at the request of
76 the chair of the committee, shall provide to the committee the
77 facilities, staff assistance and data as will enable it to
78 properly carry out its task.

79 (9) The advisory committee shall be dissolved upon the
80 presentation of its report to the Legislature.

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

