

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 2514

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature finds that:

6 (a) Compassionate groups of individuals have selflessly
7 aided this state in serving our most vulnerable residents and our
8 most debilitated neighborhoods.

9 (b) Inspired by faith and civic commitment, these
10 organizations have accomplished much in changing the lives of
11 thousands and resurrecting neighborhoods torn by the strife of
12 crime and poverty.

13 (c) It is essential that this state cooperate with
14 these organizations in order to provide an opportunity to



15 participate on an equal basis, regardless of each organization's
16 orientation, whether faith-based or secular.

17 (2) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
18 recognize the contributions of these organizations and to
19 encourage opportunities for faith-based and community-based
20 organizations to work cooperatively with government entities in
21 order to deliver services more effectively. The Legislature
22 further intends that the purpose of the council is to advise the
23 Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities, and
24 objectives to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work
25 of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to
26 the full extent permitted by law.

27 (3) There is established within the Office of the Governor
28 the Mississippi Advisory Council on Faith-Based Initiatives.

29 (4) (a) The council shall be composed of not more than
30 twenty-five (25) members. Council members may include, but need
31 not be limited to, representatives from various faiths,
32 faith-based organizations, community-based organizations,
33 foundations, corporations, and municipalities.

34 (b) The council shall be composed of the following
35 members:

36 (i) Seventeen (17) members appointed by and
37 serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

38 (ii) Four (4) members appointed by and serving at
39 the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor.



40 (iii) Four (4) members appointed by and serving at
41 the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

42 (c) Members of the council shall serve for terms of two
43 (2) years, and may continue to serve after the expiration of their
44 terms until a successor is appointed. Members shall be eligible
45 for reappointment and serve at the pleasure of the appointing
46 authority during their terms.

47 (d) The Governor shall designate a member of the
48 council to serve as chair for a term of two (2) years at the
49 pleasure of the Governor. The chair may continue to serve after
50 the expiration of the chair's term and shall be eligible for
51 redesignation by the Governor.

52 (e) (i) The heads of executive departments and
53 agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the
54 council with information it needs for purposes of carrying out its
55 mission.

56 (ii) The council may request and collect
57 information, hold hearings, establish task forces consisting of
58 members of the council or other individuals, as necessary to carry
59 out its mission.

60 (iii) The council may conduct analyses and develop
61 reports or other materials as necessary to perform its mission.

62 (iv) Members of the council shall serve without
63 compensation.



64 (f) The principal functions of the council are, to the
65 extent permitted by law:

66 (i) To develop and coordinate activities of
67 faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance
68 such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation,
69 and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these
70 objectives;

71 (ii) To ensure that state policy decisions take
72 into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based
73 initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities;

74 (iii) To identify and promote best practices and
75 successful modes of delivering social services through faith-based
76 and other community-based organizations;

77 (iv) To recommend changes in policies, programs,
78 and practices that affect the delivery of services by such
79 organizations and the needs of low-income and other underserved
80 persons in Mississippi communities;

81 (v) To coordinate public awareness of faith-based
82 and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot
83 programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism,
84 and special projects;

85 (vi) To encourage private charitable giving to
86 support faith-based and community-based initiatives;

87 (vii) To bring concerns, ideas, and policy options
88 to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and



89 replicating successful faith-based and other community-based
90 programs;

91 (viii) To develop and implement strategic
92 initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and
93 communities in this state;

94 (ix) To showcase and herald innovative grassroots
95 nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives;

96 (x) To eliminate unnecessary legislative,
97 regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective
98 faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social
99 problems;

100 (xi) To monitor implementation of state policy
101 affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations;

102 (xii) To ensure that the efforts of faith-based
103 and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria
104 for performance and accountability.

105 (g) The council may not make any recommendation that
106 conflicts with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to
107 the United States Constitution or Section 18 of the Mississippi
108 Constitution.

109 (h) By December 1 of each year, the council shall
110 prepare a written report for the Governor, the Lieutenant
111 Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
112 containing a summary of activities and recommendations of the
113 council.



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

