

By: Representative Hines

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 148

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-3-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH THE WISEWOMAN
3 AND WISEMAN PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCES OF CERTAIN CHRONIC
4 DISEASES AMONG MISSISSIPPIANS THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND
5 EARLY SCREENING AND DETECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-3-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 41-3-13. (1) The Legislature makes the following findings:

10 (a) Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent,
11 costly and preventable of all health problems.

12 (b) Screening tests are currently available that can
13 detect heart disease, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal
14 cancer, prostate cancer and other chronic diseases early, when
15 they can be most effectively treated, managed or controlled.

16 (c) The risk factors for many chronic diseases can be
17 addressed and reduced through education about those risk factors
18 and the importance of actions that can be taken for prevention of
19 chronic diseases.



20 (d) People should partner with their health care
21 providers to have their risk factors assessed, monitored and
22 managed in accordance with national guidelines, and should be
23 educated about the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke
24 and the importance of getting help quickly at the onset of those
25 symptoms.

26 (e) Mississippi should have programs that are
27 specifically designed to reduce the incidences of chronic diseases
28 among our population.

29 (2) The State Department of Health * * * shall establish the
30 WISEWOMAN * * * program and the WISEMAN * * * program, the
31 purposes and goals of which are to reduce the incidences of
32 certain chronic diseases among Mississippians through education,
33 prevention and early screening and detection. * * * The focus of
34 the WISEWOMAN * * * program shall be heart disease, stroke, breast
35 cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer in women, and the
36 focus of the WISEMAN * * * program shall be heart disease, stroke,
37 prostate cancer, colorectal cancer and diabetes in men. At a
38 minimum, the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN * * * programs shall:

39 (a) Provide for education about healthy behaviors and
40 how to reduce the risk factors for those chronic diseases;

41 (b) Provide for screening and testing to detect those
42 chronic diseases early when they can be effectively treated,
43 managed or controlled; and



44 (c) Be directed toward those populations at greatest
45 need and be based on a foundation of scientific evidence.

46 (3) In implementing the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN * * *
47 programs, the department shall contract with public or private
48 clinics or agencies that have demonstrated success in reducing
49 incidences of those chronic diseases through education, prevention
50 and early screening and detection.

51 (4) The department shall seek and apply for grants from the
52 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public or
53 private entities to obtain funding for the WISEWOMAN and
54 WISEMAN * * * programs.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2018.

