

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Jackson (11th),
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To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2759

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI OPIOID CRISIS COMMISSION"
2 TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
3 AND APPROPRIATE REGULATORY AGENCIES RELATIVE TO OPIOID ISSUES AND
4 TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE CONSENSUS APPROACH WITH LEGISLATIVE
5 AND/OR REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION
6 SHALL CONVENE BEGINNING MAY 1, 2018, TO CONDUCT HEARINGS AND
7 DEVELOP ITS INITIAL REPORT AND SHALL UPDATE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON
8 AN ANNUAL BASIS; TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION;
9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature finds:

12 (a) The opioid crisis stemming from prescribed
13 controlled substances must be addressed by all regulatory
14 agencies.

15 (b) There is a need to study the recommendations made
16 by the Governor's Opioid and Heroin Task Force and develop a
17 comprehensive regulatory approach to reduce deaths and overdoses
18 from legally acquired prescription narcotics.

19 (c) State agencies are already developing regulations
20 to address the issue but with different approaches and timelines.



21 (d) The solutions to the opioid crisis will require
22 legislation and regulatory changes and treatment options.

23 (2) There is hereby created the Mississippi Opioid Crisis
24 Commission to identify and examine all recommendations issued by
25 the Governor, the State Department of Health, the various health
26 care providers and the appropriate regulatory agencies relative to
27 opioid issues and to develop a comprehensive consensus approach
28 with legislative and/or regulatory recommendations.

29 (3) The Opioid Crisis Commission shall be composed of the
30 following members:

31 (a) The State Health Officer who shall serve as Chair
32 of the Commission;

33 (b) The Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and
34 Welfare Committee, the Senate Drug Policy Committee, the House
35 Public Health and Welfare Committee, and the House Drug Policy
36 Committee;

37 (c) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the
38 Lieutenant Governor and two (2) members of the House of
39 Representatives appointed by the Speaker;

40 (d) Representatives from each of the following
41 licensing agencies of health care prescribers appointed by the
42 regulatory board: State Board of Medical Licensure, State Board
43 of Pharmacy, State Board of Dental Examiners, and the State Board
44 of Nursing;



45 (e) Three (3) representatives of the addiction
46 treatment/mental health provider community appointed by the State
47 Board of Mental Health;

48 (f) A representative of the Governor.

49 (4) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
50 the effective date of this act. The commission shall hold its
51 first meeting before May 1, 2018, at the call of the chair.

52 (5) A majority of the members of the commission shall
53 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of the rules, resolutions
54 and reports, an affirmative vote of the majority of the members
55 shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of
56 all meetings and such notices shall be mailed at least five (5)
57 days before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

58 (6) The State Department of Health shall provide
59 administrative and clerical support for the operation of the
60 commission. To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
61 department, division, board, bureau, committee or agency of the
62 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request
63 of any member of the commission, provide such facilities,
64 assistance, information and data as will enable the committee to
65 properly carry out its duties.

66 (7) The commission shall develop its initial report with
67 recommendations on or before August 1, 2018. After July 1, 2018,
68 the commission shall meet at least annually to review statistical
69 information, the impact of adopted regulations, and other data as



70 needed to evaluate the effectiveness of adopted regulations and
71 law and make additional recommendations as needed.

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

