

By: Representatives Mims, Dixon, Sykes

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-99-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY
3 MAKE GRANTS UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER GRANT
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-99-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 41-99-5. (1) Any Mississippi qualified health center
9 desiring to participate in the program shall make application for
10 a grant to the department in a form satisfactory to the
11 department. The department shall receive grant proposals from
12 Mississippi qualified health centers. All proposals shall be
13 submitted in accordance with the provisions of grant procedures,
14 criteria and standards developed and made public by the
15 department.

16 (2) The department shall use the funds provided by this
17 chapter to make grants until July 1, * * * 2024, to Mississippi
18 qualified health centers upon proposals made under subsection (1)



19 of this section. Grants that are awarded to Mississippi qualified
20 health centers shall only be used by those centers to:

21 (a) Increase access to preventative and primary care
22 services by uninsured or medically indigent patients that are
23 served by those centers; and

24 (b) Create new services or augment existing services
25 provided to uninsured or medically indigent patients, including,
26 but not limited to, primary care medical and preventive services,
27 dental services, optometric services, in-house laboratory
28 services, diagnostic services, pharmacy services, nutritional
29 services and social services.

30 (3) Grants received by Mississippi qualified health centers
31 under this chapter shall not be used:

32 (a) To supplant federal funds traditionally received by
33 those centers, but shall be used to supplement them;

34 (b) For land or real estate investments;

35 (c) To finance or satisfy any existing debt; or

36 (d) Unless the health center specifically complies with
37 the definition of a Mississippi qualified health center contained
38 in Section 41-99-1.

39 (4) The department shall develop regulations, procedures and
40 application forms to govern how grants will be awarded, shall
41 develop a plan to ensure that grants are equitably distributed
42 among all Mississippi qualified health centers, and shall develop



43 an audit process to assure that grant monies are used to provide
44 and expend care to the uninsured and medically indigent.

45 (5) The department shall establish a fund for the purpose of
46 providing service grants to Mississippi qualified health centers
47 in accordance with this chapter and the following terms and
48 conditions:

49 (a) The total amount of grants issued under this
50 chapter shall be Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) per state
51 fiscal year.

52 (b) No Mississippi qualified health center shall
53 receive assistance under this program in excess of Two Hundred
54 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per calendar year.

55 (c) Each Mississippi qualified health center receiving
56 a service grant shall provide a yearly report to the department
57 that details the number of additional uninsured and medically
58 indigent patients that are cared for and the types of services
59 that are provided.

60 (6) The department shall establish an advisory council to
61 review and make recommendations to the department on the awarding
62 of any grants to Mississippi qualified health centers. Those
63 recommendations by the advisory council shall not be binding upon
64 the department, but when a recommendation by the advisory council
65 is not followed by the department, the department shall place in
66 its minutes reasons for not accepting the advisory council's
67 recommendation, and provide for an appeals process. All approved



68 grants shall be awarded within thirty (30) days of approval by the
69 department.

70 (7) The composition of the advisory council shall be the
71 following:

72 (a) Two (2) employees of the department, one (1) of
73 whom must have experience in reviewing and writing grant
74 proposals;

75 (b) Two (2) executive employees of Mississippi
76 qualified health centers, one (1) of whom must be a chief
77 financial officer;

78 (c) Two (2) health care providers who are affiliated
79 with a Mississippi qualified health center; and

80 (d) One (1) health care provider who is not affiliated
81 with a Mississippi qualified health center or the department but
82 has training and experience in primary care.

83 (8) The department may use a portion of any grant monies
84 received under this chapter to administer the program and to pay
85 reasonable expenses incurred by the advisory council; however, in
86 no case shall more than one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) or Sixty
87 Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) annually, whichever is greater, be
88 used for program expenses.

89 (9) No assistance shall be provided to a Mississippi
90 qualified health center under this chapter unless the Mississippi
91 qualified health center certifies to the department that it will
92 not discriminate against any employee or against any applicant for



93 employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex
94 or age.

95 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
96 and after July 1, 2019.

