

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2623

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 25-15-22, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 2 1972, TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' LIFE  
 3 AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN TASK FORCE TO STUDY, REPORT AND MAKE  
 4 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SUCH INSURANCE PLANS; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN  
 5 ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY, REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
 6 ON; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING PROCEDURE OF THE  
 7 TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO MAKE A REPORT OF ITS  
 8 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDED  
 9 LEGISLATION, TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
 10 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CHAIRS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE  
 11 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2023,  
 12 AT WHICH TIME THE TASK FORCE WILL BE DISSOLVED; AND FOR RELATED  
 13 PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
 16 25-15-22, Mississippi Code of 1972:

17 25-15-22. (1) There is hereby created the "Mississippi  
 18 State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan Task  
 19 Force" to study, report and make recommendations on:

20 (a) The financial state of the State Health Plan,  
 21 including current reserves and solvency;

22 (b) The governance structure of the State Health Plan;



23 (c) The plan for rate increases in the future,  
24 including the impact to employees and their families;

25 (d) Benefits or services for employees received through  
26 the State Health Plan;

27 (e) A comparison of the State Health Plan and  
28 government health insurance plans in other southeastern states,  
29 including, but not limited to, their governance structures,  
30 benefits or services offered, solvency, reserves and rate  
31 structures and increases over time; and

32 (f) Any other information or recommendation related to  
33 the State Health Plan which may be relevant to achieving the goal  
34 of ensuring the plan is solvent and results in rates for employees  
35 and their families which are competitive with neighboring states  
36 and provide access to necessary services.

37 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following  
38 members:

39 (a) The Chairs of the Education Committees in the House  
40 and Senate;

41 (b) The Chairs of the Insurance Committees in the House  
42 and Senate;

43 (c) The Commissioner of Insurance, or his designee;

44 (d) The Administrator of the State Health Plan, or his  
45 designee;

46 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of Finance  
47 and Administration, or his designee;



48                   (f) An actuary appointed by the Governor;  
49                   (g) A public schoolteacher appointed by the Lieutenant  
50 Governor; and  
51                   (h) A retired state employee appointed by the Speaker  
52 of the House.

53           (3) Appointments shall be made no later than thirty (30)  
54 days after the effective date of this act. The Chairs of the  
55 Insurance Committee in the Senate and House shall convene the  
56 members of the task force for an organizational meeting within  
57 thirty (30) days after the deadline for appointing members, at  
58 which time the members of the task force shall select a chairman  
59 and a vice chairman from its membership. The vice chairman shall  
60 also serve as secretary and be responsible for keeping all records  
61 of the task force. A majority of the members of the task force  
62 constitutes a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the  
63 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of  
64 a majority of the task force shall be required to be recorded in  
65 the official minutes of the meeting in which the vote occurred.  
66 Meetings of the task force shall be held at the State Capitol;  
67 however, if it is not feasible for the task force to hold an  
68 in-person meeting, the task force may convene utilizing an online  
69 meeting platform that is accessible for viewing by the public.

70           (4) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
71 provide, using existing resources, administrative and clerical  
72 support to the task force. The Executive Director of the



73 Department of Finance and Administration shall designate  
74 appropriate staff to assist the task force in carrying out its  
75 duties.

76 (5) Subject to appropriation, members of the task force who  
77 are not state employees may be compensated at the per diem rate  
78 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and reimbursed in accordance with  
79 Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the  
80 performance of their duties. However, task force members may not  
81 incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless previously  
82 authorized by vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action  
83 must be recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Per diem  
84 and expense payments made pursuant to this subsection may be paid  
85 from any funds made available to the task force for that purpose.

86 (6) The task force shall make a report of its findings and  
87 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the  
88 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
89 the Chairs of the Education Committees of the House of  
90 Representatives and Senate on or before November 1, 2023, at which  
91 time the task force will be dissolved.

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
93 and after July 1, 2023.

