

By: Senator(s) Williams, Boyd, Branning

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2781

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI ACCESS TO MATERNAL
 2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
 3 COORDINATE AND PROMOTE INFORMATION AND SERVICES RELATED TO
 4 PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND CARE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN FOR
 5 EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND NEW PARENTS; TO REQUIRE THE PROGRAM TO
 6 PROVIDE CERTAIN RESOURCES RELATED TO ADOPTION ASSISTANCE,
 7 CHILDCARE, DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, FOOD,
 8 CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO PREGNANCY AND NEWBORN CARE, JOB
 9 TRAINING AND PLACEMENT, PATERNITY, PARENTING SKILLS, AND PRENATAL
 10 AND POSTPARTUM CARE; TO REQUIRE THAT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE
 11 PROGRAM SHALL BE AVAILABLE ON A SEPARATE WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE FROM
 12 THE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN WEBSITE; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO
 13 ESTABLISH A PROMOTION CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE
 14 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROMULGATE RULES TO
 15 IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Access to Maternal
 18 Assistance Program is hereby established within the State
 19 Department of Health to coordinate and promote information and
 20 services related to pregnancy, childbirth and care for dependent
 21 children for expectant mothers and new parents.

22 (2) The Program shall include, but shall not be limited to,
 23 providing comprehensive information and resources related to
 24 adoption assistance, childcare, domestic abuse protection, early



25 intervention, food, clothing and supplies related to pregnancy and
26 newborn care, job training and placement, paternity, parenting
27 skills, and prenatal and postpartum care provided by:

28 (a) The State of Mississippi or any other governmental
29 entity; or

30 (b) Relevant nonprofit organizations, including
31 religious institutions.

32 (3) The program shall not include any information related to
33 coverage of abortions or abortion rights. The program shall not
34 include any resources provided by an organization which provides,
35 pays for, or provides coverage for abortion, or financially
36 supports any other entity which provides, pays for or provides
37 coverage for abortions.

38 (4) Information related to the program shall be available on
39 a separate website accessible from the department's main website
40 and County Health Department's websites by October 1, 2023. The
41 mobile application referenced in Section 5 of this act shall be
42 available to the public no later than January 1, 2024.

43 (5) The department shall establish a promotional campaign to
44 educate the public about the program, including, but not limited
45 to, the implementation of a website, social media graphics and any
46 other awareness activity, including the creation of a mobile
47 application.

48 (6) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this
49 program.



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

