

By: Representative Turner

To: Insurance;
Accountability, Efficiency,
Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1160

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE
3 MANAGEMENT BOARD SHALL DETERMINE ALL BENEFITS AND EXCLUSIONS
4 ALLOWED UNDER THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' LIFE AND HEALTH
5 INSURANCE PLAN; TO REPEAL SECTION 25-15-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
6 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR ITEMS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THE STATE
7 AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 25-15-5. (1) The board shall administer the plan and is
13 authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for its
14 administration, and shall determine all benefits and exclusions
15 allowed under the plan, subject to the terms and limitations
16 contained in this article.

17 (2) The board shall develop a five-year strategic plan for
18 the insurance plan established by Section 25-15-3 et seq. The
19 strategic plan shall address, but not be limited to:

20 (a) Changing trends in the health care industry, and
21 how they effect delivery of services to members of the plan.



22 (b) Alternative service delivery systems.

23 (c) Any foreseeable problems with the present system of
24 delivering and administering health care benefits in Mississippi.

25 (d) The development of options and recommendations for
26 changes in the plan.

27 (3) To carry out the requirements of subsection (2) of this
28 section, the board may conduct formal research, including
29 questionnaires and attitudinal surveys of members' needs and
30 preferences with respect to service delivery.

31 (4) After the board has complied with all provisions of
32 Section 25-15-9 regarding the establishment of the plan, it shall
33 be responsible for fully disclosing to plan members the provisions
34 of the plan. Such disclosure shall consist of the dissemination
35 of educational material on the plan and any proposed changes
36 thereto. The board shall provide members with complete
37 educational materials at least thirty (30) days before the date
38 upon which the plan's members must select a plan option for health
39 care services. The board shall further use the resources of the
40 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television or other state
41 agency, university or college to provide information on proposed
42 changes. The board may also use other state-owned media, as well
43 as public service announcements on private media to disseminate
44 information regarding proposed changes in the plan.

45 (5) The board shall develop and make available for public
46 review at its offices a comprehensive plan document which



47 documents all benefits for which members of the plan created by
48 Section 25-15-3 et seq. are eligible. This document shall be
49 typed and maintained also at the offices of any administrator
50 contracted with in accordance with Section 25-15-301.

51 (6) (a) The board may enter into contracts with
52 accountants, actuaries and other persons from the private sector
53 whose skills are necessary to carry out the purposes of Section
54 25-15-3 et seq.

55 (b) Before the board enters into any contract for
56 services as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
57 board shall first determine that the services are required, and
58 that the staff of the board and personnel of other state agencies
59 are not sufficiently experienced to provide the services.

60 (c) If the service is to be rendered for a period of in
61 excess of six (6) months, the board shall seek and obtain bids for
62 the service in a manner identical to that provided for in Section
63 25-15-301, subsection (1)(a) and (b) except for those provisions
64 which specifically state criteria which are applicable only to
65 third-party administrators contracted with in accordance with
66 Section 25-15-3 et seq.

67 (d) The board is also authorized to procure legal
68 services if it deems these services to be necessary to carry out
69 its responsibilities under Section 25-15-3 et seq.



70 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-15-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
71 provides for items that are not covered by the State and School
72 Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan, is repealed.

73 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2024.

