

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2756

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD
 3 SHALL DETERMINE ALL BENEFITS AND EXCLUSIONS PROVIDED UNDER THE
 4 STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; TO REPEAL
 5 SECTION 25-15-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR
 6 CERTAIN SERVICES NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES HEALTH
 7 INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 25-15-5. (1) The board shall administer the plan and is
 12 authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for its
 13 administration, and shall determine all benefits and exclusions
 14 allowed under the plan, subject to the terms and limitations
 15 contained in this article.

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

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



21 (b) Alternative service delivery systems.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



69 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-15-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
70 provides for certain services not included in the State and School
71 Employees' Health Insurance Plan, is hereby repealed.

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

