

By: Representative Cockerham

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1390

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE
 2 IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE FUNDING PROGRAMS ON PATIENT ACCESS TO
 3 AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE
 4 TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPRISED OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI
 5 RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL OR THEIR DESIGNEES; TO PROVIDE THAT
 6 THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE HELD BY MAY 15, 2025;
 7 TO SPECIFY THE SUBJECTS AND ISSUES THAT THE STUDY SHALL CONSIDER;
 8 TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE SHALL COMPLETE THE STUDY NOT LATER
 9 THAN DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND TRANSMIT COPIES OF THE STUDY TO CERTAIN
 10 PERSONS, AND PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS FROM THE
 11 STUDY, TOGETHER WITH ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, TO
 12 CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES; AND FOR RELATED
 13 PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to conduct a
 16 study of the impact of alternative funding programs on patient
 17 access to affordable prescription drugs, for the purpose of
 18 ensuring access to medically necessary medication for patients in
 19 Mississippi. The members of the task force shall be comprised of
 20 the members of the Mississippi Rare Disease Advisory Council
 21 established by Section 41-145-3, and any member of the council may
 22 appoint a designee who shall serve on the task force on his or her
 23 behalf.



24 (2) The member of the council who is a physician with
25 experience treating rare diseases who is practicing in the state
26 shall serve as the chairman of the task force, and the staff of
27 the council shall provide support to the task force.

28 (3) A majority of the total membership of the task force
29 shall constitute a quorum, and any official action by the task
30 force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the
31 quorum present and voting.

32 (4) The names of any persons who are designated by council
33 members as provided in subsection (1) of this section shall be
34 submitted to the chairman of the task force within thirty (30)
35 days after the effect date of this act. The chairman shall call
36 the first meeting of the task force by May 15, 2025.

37 (5) Members of the task force shall serve without
38 compensation, but may be reimbursed for traveling expenses and
39 mileage, as provided under Section 25-3-41, subject to the
40 availability of funding.

41 (6) The task force shall conduct a study on the impact of
42 alternative funding programs on patient access to affordable
43 prescription drugs, which shall include a study of the following:

44 (a) The history and prevalence of alternative funding
45 programs in the United States and Mississippi, including, but not
46 limited to, the types of health insurance products that use, in
47 whole or in part, alternative funding programs to provide access,
48 coverage or discounts for prescription drugs;



49 (b) The business model of alternative funding programs;

50 (c) The impact of alternative funding programs on
51 patient assistance programs for prescription medications,
52 including, but not limited to, long-term stability of those
53 patient assistance programs if an upswing in alternative funding
54 programs is realized across an increased number of health
55 insurance products; and

56 (d) The impact of alternative funding programs on
57 coverage of prescription medications if the use of alternative
58 funding programs is expanded across additional insurance products,
59 including, but not limited to, commercial health coverage plans,
60 health coverage plans offered to public employees, and health
61 coverage plans offered to individuals in the state's health
62 insurance exchange.

63 (7) (a) The task force shall meet as necessary and shall
64 complete the study not later than December 1, 2025, and transmit
65 copies of the study to the executive director of the Mississippi
66 State Medical Association; the executive director of the
67 Mississippi Oncology Society; the president of the Mississippi
68 Economic Council; the president of the Pharmaceutical Care
69 Management Association; the chief executive officer of
70 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America; and the
71 executive director of the Mississippi Independent Pharmacies
72 Association.



73 (b) The task force shall also provide, not later than
74 December 1, 2025, a written report of its findings from the study,
75 together with any recommendations for legislation, to the
76 Governor, the Director of the Division of Medicaid, the House
77 Medicaid Committee, the House Public Health and Human Services
78 Committee, the House State Affairs Committee, the Senate Medicaid
79 Committee, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, and the
80 Senate Government Structure Committee.

81 (8) The task force shall terminate upon the date of
82 submission of its study.

83 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after its passage.

