

By: Eaton

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-3-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO REQUIRE THAT EACH FOOD
3 SERVICE EMPLOYEE OF ANY COMMERCIAL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT SHALL
4 RECEIVE A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND A BLOOD TEST, AND OBTAIN A
5 HEALTH CERTIFICATE VERIFYING THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND THE
6 BLOOD TEST, BEFORE BEGINNING EMPLOYMENT AND ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS
7 DURING HIS EMPLOYMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BLOOD TEST SHALL BE TO
8 DETECT THOSE COMMUNICABLE OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES THAT MAY BE
9 SPREAD DURING THE PREPARATION, HANDLING OR SERVING OF FOOD OR
10 DRINK; TO PROVIDE THAT THE HEALTH CERTIFICATE SHALL STATE THAT THE
11 EMPLOYEE HAS RECEIVED A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND A BLOOD TEST AND
12 THAT THE EMPLOYEE IS NOT A CARRIER OF ANY SUCH COMMUNICABLE OR
13 INFECTIOUS DISEASE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 SECTION 1. Section 41-3-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 amended as follows:[JU1]

17 41-3-15. (1) There shall be a State Department of Health
18 which shall be organized into such bureaus and divisions as are
19 considered necessary by the executive officer, and shall be
20 assigned appropriate functions as are required of the State Board
21 of Health by law, subject to the approval of the board.

22 (2) The State Board of Health shall have the authority to
23 establish an Office of Rural Health within the department. The
24 duties and responsibilities of this office shall include the
25 following:

26 (a) To collect and evaluate data on rural health

27 conditions and needs;

28 (b) To engage in policy analysis, policy development
29 and economic impact studies with regard to rural health issues;

30 (c) To develop and implement plans and provide
31 technical assistance to enable community health systems to respond
32 to various changes in their circumstances;

33 (d) To plan and assist in professional recruitment and
34 retention of medical professionals and assistants; and

35 (e) To establish information clearinghouses to improve
36 access to and sharing of rural health care information.

37 (3) The State Board of Health shall have general supervision
38 of the health interests of the people of the state and to exercise
39 the rights, powers and duties of those acts which it is authorized
40 by law to enforce.

41 (4) The State Board of Health shall have authority:

42 (a) To make investigations and inquiries with respect
43 to the causes of disease and death, and to investigate the effect
44 of environment, including conditions of employment and other
45 conditions which may affect health, and to make such other
46 investigations as it may deem necessary for the preservation and
47 improvement of health.

48 (b) To make such sanitary investigations as it may,
49 from time to time, deem necessary for the protection and
50 improvement of health and to investigate nuisance questions which
51 affect the security of life and health within the state.

52 (c) To direct and control sanitary and quarantine
53 measures for dealing with all diseases within the state possible
54 to suppress same and prevent their spread.

55 (d) To obtain, collect and preserve such information
56 relative to mortality, morbidity, disease and health as may be
57 useful in the discharge of its duties or may contribute to the

58 prevention of disease or the promotion of health in this state.

59 (e) To enter into contracts or agreements with any
60 other state or federal agency, or with any private person,
61 organization or group capable of contracting, if it finds such
62 action to be in the public interest.

63 (f) To charge and collect reasonable fees for health
64 services, including immunizations, inspections and related
65 activities, and the board shall charge fees for such services;
66 provided, however, if it is determined that a person receiving
67 services is unable to pay the total fee, the board shall collect
68 any amount such person is able to pay.

69 (g) To accept gifts, trusts, bequests, grants,
70 endowments or transfers of property of any kind.

71 (h) To receive monies coming to it by way of fees for
72 services or by appropriations.

73 (i) (i) To establish standards for, issue permits and
74 exercise control over, any cafes, restaurants, food or drink
75 stands, sandwich manufacturing establishments, and all other
76 establishments, other than churches, church-related and private
77 schools, and other nonprofit or charitable organizations, where
78 food or drink is regularly prepared, handled and served for pay;

79 * * *

80 (ii) To require that a permit be obtained from the
81 Department of Health before such persons begin operation; and

82 (iii) To require, and the board shall require,
83 that each employee of any establishment to which subparagraph (i)
84 of this paragraph applies who prepares, handles or serves food or
85 drink in the course of his employment shall receive a physical

86 examination and a blood test, and obtain a health certificate
87 verifying the physical examination and the blood test, before
88 beginning employment at the establishment and once every four (4)
89 years during his employment. The blood test shall be to detect
90 those communicable or infectious diseases specified by the board
91 that may be spread during the preparation, handling or serving of
92 food or drink. The health certificate shall be on a form provided
93 by the Department of Health, and the certificate shall state that
94 the employee has received a physical examination and a blood test
95 and that the employee is not a carrier of any such communicable or
96 infectious disease.

97 (j) To promulgate rules and regulations and exercise
98 control over the production and sale of milk pursuant to the
99 provisions of Sections 75-31-41 through 75-31-49.

100 (k) On presentation of proper authority, to enter into
101 and inspect any public place or building where the State Health
102 Officer or his representative deems it necessary and proper to
103 enter for the discovery and suppression of disease and for the
104 enforcement of any health or sanitary laws and regulations in the
105 state.

106 (l) To conduct investigations, inquiries and hearings,
107 and to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the
108 production of books and records at any hearing when authorized and
109 required by statute to be conducted by the State Health Officer or
110 the State Board of Health.

111 (m) To employ, subject to the regulations of the State
112 Personnel Board, qualified professional personnel in the subject
113 matter or fields of each bureau, and such other technical and

114 clerical staff as may be required for the operation of the
115 department. The executive officer shall be the appointing
116 authority for the department, and shall have the power to delegate
117 the authority to appoint or dismiss employees to appropriate
118 subordinates, subject to the rules and regulations of the State
119 Personnel Board.

120 (n) To promulgate rules and regulations, and to collect
121 data and information, on (i) the delivery of services through the
122 practice of telemedicine; and (ii) the use of electronic records
123 for the delivery of telemedicine services.

124 (5) (a) The State Board of Health shall have the authority,
125 in its discretion, to establish programs to promote the public
126 health, to be administered by the State Department of Health.
127 Specifically, such programs may include, but shall not be limited
128 to, programs in the following areas:

- 129 (i) Maternal and child health;
- 130 (ii) Family planning;
- 131 (iii) Pediatric services;
- 132 (iv) Services to crippled and disabled children;
- 133 (v) Control of communicable and noncommunicable
134 disease;
- 135 (vi) Child care licensure;
- 136 (vii) Radiological health;
- 137 (viii) Dental health;
- 138 (ix) Milk sanitation;
- 139 (x) Occupational safety and health;
- 140 (xi) Food, vector control and general sanitation;
- 141 (xii) Protection of drinking water;

142 (xiii) Sanitation in food handling establishments
143 open to the public;

144 (xiv) Registration of births and deaths and other
145 vital events;

146 (xv) Such public health programs and services as
147 may be assigned to the State Board of Health by the Legislature or
148 by executive order.

149 (b) The State Board of Health and State Department of
150 Health shall not be authorized to sell, transfer, alienate or
151 otherwise dispose of any of the home health agencies owned and
152 operated by the department on January 1, 1995, and shall not be
153 authorized to sell, transfer, assign, alienate or otherwise
154 dispose of the license of any of those home health agencies,
155 except upon the specific authorization of the Legislature by an
156 amendment to this section. However, this paragraph (b) shall not
157 prevent the board or the department from closing or terminating
158 the operation of any home health agency owned and operated by the
159 department, or closing or terminating any office, branch office or
160 clinic of any such home health agency, or otherwise discontinuing
161 the providing of home health services through any such home health
162 agency, office, branch office or clinic, if the board first
163 demonstrates that there are other providers of home health
164 services in the area being served by the department's home health
165 agency, office, branch office or clinic that will be able to
166 provide adequate home health services to the residents of the area
167 if the department's home health agency, office, branch office or
168 clinic is closed or otherwise discontinues the providing of home
169 health services. This demonstration by the board that there are

170 other providers of adequate home health services in the area shall
171 be spread at length upon the minutes of the board at a regular or
172 special meeting of the board at least thirty (30) days before a
173 home health agency, office, branch office or clinic is proposed to
174 be closed or otherwise discontinue the providing of home health
175 services.

176 (c) The State Department of Health may undertake such
177 technical programs and activities as may be required for the
178 support and operation of such programs, including maintaining
179 physical, chemical, bacteriological and radiological laboratories,
180 and may make such diagnostic tests for diseases and tests for the
181 evaluation of health hazards as may be deemed necessary for the
182 protection of the people of the state.

183 (6) (a) The State Board of Health shall administer the
184 local governments and rural water systems improvements loan
185 program in accordance with the provisions of Section 41-3-16.

186 (b) The State Board of Health shall have authority:

187 (i) To enter into capitalization grant agreements
188 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or any
189 successor agency thereto;

190 (ii) To accept capitalization grant awards made
191 under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended;

192 (iii) To provide annual reports and audits to the
193 United States Environmental Protection Agency, as may be required
194 by federal capitalization grant agreements; and

195 (iv) To establish and collect fees to defray the
196 reasonable costs of administering the revolving fund or emergency
197 fund if the State Board of Health determines that such costs will

198 exceed the limitations established in the federal Safe Drinking
199 Water Act, as amended. The administration fees may be included in
200 loan amounts to loan recipients for the purpose of facilitating
201 payment to the board; however, such fees may not exceed five
202 percent (5%) of the loan amount.

203 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
204 and after July 1, 2000.