

By: Representative Moody

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1087

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE  
2 A VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS WHO MAY BE EXPOSED TO  
3 INFECTIOUS DISEASES WHEN SENT TO BIOTERRORISM OR DISASTER  
4 LOCATIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS CONDITIONAL UPON THE  
5 RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi State Department  
9 of Health, Bioterrorism Division;

10 (b) "Director" means the Executive Director of the  
11 State Board of Health.

12 (c) "Bioterrorism" means the intentional use of any  
13 microorganism, virus, infectious substance or biological product  
14 that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology or any  
15 naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any  
16 microorganism, virus, infectious substance or biological product,  
17 to cause or attempt to cause death, disease or other biological  
18 malfunction in any living organism;

19 (d) "Disaster location" means any geographical location  
20 where a bioterrorism attack, terrorist attack, catastrophic or  
21 natural disaster or emergency occurs; and

22 (e) "First responders" means state and local law  
23 enforcement personnel, fire department personnel and emergency  
24 medical personnel who will be deployed to bioterrorism attacks,  
25 terrorist attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters and  
26 emergencies.

27 (2) The department shall offer a vaccination program for  
28 first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases when



29 deployed to disaster locations. The vaccinations shall include,  
30 but are not limited to, hepatitis A vaccination, hepatitis B  
31 vaccination, diphtheria-tetanus vaccination, influenza vaccination,  
32 pneumococcal vaccination and other vaccinations when recommended  
33 by the United States Public Health Service and in accordance with  
34 Federal Emergency Management Directors Policy. Immune globulin  
35 will be made available when necessary.

36 (3) Participation in the vaccination program will be  
37 voluntary on the part of the first responders, except that first  
38 responders who may be exposed to blood borne pathogens, as defined  
39 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standard  
40 contained at 29 CFR 1910.10300, shall be required to take the  
41 designated vaccinations.

42 (4) A first responder shall be exempt from vaccinations when  
43 a written statement from a licensed physician is presented  
44 indicating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for that  
45 person or the first responder signs a written statement that the  
46 administration of a vaccination conflicts with their religious  
47 tenets.

48 (5) In the event of a vaccine shortage, the director, in  
49 consultation with the Governor and the Centers for Disease Control  
50 and Prevention, shall give priority for vaccination to first  
51 responders.

52 (6) The department shall notify first responders of the  
53 availability of the vaccination program and shall provide  
54 educational materials on ways to prevent exposure to infectious  
55 diseases.

56 (7) The department may contract with county and local health  
57 departments, not-for-profit home health care agencies, hospitals  
58 and physicians to administer a vaccination program for first  
59 responders.



60           (8) The provisions of this section shall be effective only  
61 upon receipt of federal funding and/or federal grants for  
62 administering a first responder's vaccination program.

63           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
64 and after July 1, 2003.

