

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and  
Welfare; Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2753

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 SUBJECT TO THE RECEIPT  
5 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 locations" means any geographical  
20 location where a bioterrorism attack, terrorist attack,  
21 catastrophic or 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 by the first responders, blood borne pathogens as  
38 defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
39 Standard contained at 29 CFR 1910.10300 who shall be required to  
40 take the designated vaccinations or otherwise required by law.

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

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

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

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

59 (8) This section shall be effective upon receipt of federal  
60 funding and/or federal grants for administering a first responders  
61 vaccination program. Upon receipt of such funding, the department



62 shall make available the vaccines to first responders as provided  
63 in this section.

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

