

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee, Frazier, Horhn,
Jackson (11th), Simmons

To: Public Health and
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2520

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-99-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GRANTS UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI
3 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-99-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 41-99-5. (1) Any Mississippi qualified health center
8 desiring to participate in the program shall make application for
9 a grant to the SDOH in a form satisfactory to the SDOH. The SDOH
10 shall receive grant proposals from Mississippi qualified health
11 centers. All proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the
12 provisions of grant procedures, criteria and standards developed
13 and made public by the SDOH.

14 (2) The SDOH shall use the funds provided by this chapter to
15 make grants during the next five (5) fiscal years until fiscal
16 year 2010 to Mississippi qualified health centers upon proposals
17 made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. Grants that are
18 awarded to Mississippi qualified health centers shall only be used
19 by such centers to:

20 (a) Increase access to preventative and primary care
21 services by uninsured or medically indigent patients that are
22 served by such centers; and

23 (b) Create new services or augment existing services
24 provided to uninsured or medically indigent patients, including,
25 but not limited to, primary care medical and preventive services,
26 dental services, optometric services, in-house laboratory

27 services, diagnostic services, pharmacy services, nutritional
28 services and social services.

29 (3) Grants received by Mississippi qualified health centers
30 pursuant to this chapter shall not be used:

31 (a) To supplant federal funds traditionally received by
32 such centers, but shall be used to supplement them;

33 (b) For land or real estate investments;

34 (c) To finance or satisfy any existing debt; or

35 (d) Unless the health center specifically complies with
36 a definition of a Mississippi qualified health center contained in
37 Section 41-99-1.

38 (4) The SDOH shall develop regulations, procedures and
39 application forms to govern how grants will be awarded, shall
40 develop a plan to ensure that grants are equitably distributed
41 among all Mississippi qualified health centers, and shall develop
42 an audit process to assure that grant monies are used to provide
43 and expend care to the uninsured and medically indigent.

44 (5) The SDOH shall establish a fund for the purpose of
45 providing service grants to Mississippi qualified health centers
46 in accordance with this chapter and the following terms and
47 conditions:

48 (a) The total amount of grants issued pursuant to this
49 chapter shall be Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) per state
50 fiscal year.

51 (b) No Mississippi qualified health center shall
52 receive assistance under this program in excess of Two Hundred
53 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per calendar year.

54 (c) Each Mississippi qualified health center receiving
55 a service grant shall provide a yearly report to the SDOH which
56 details the number of additional uninsured and medically indigent
57 patients that are cared for and the types of services that are
58 provided.

59 (6) The SDOH shall establish an advisory council to review
60 and make recommendations to the SDOH on the awarding of any grants
61 to Mississippi qualified health centers. Such recommendations by
62 the advisory council shall not be binding upon the SDOH, but when
63 a recommendation by the advisory council is not followed by the
64 SDOH, the SDOH shall place in its minutes reasons for not
65 accepting the advisory council's recommendation, and provide for
66 an appeals process. All approved grants shall be awarded within
67 thirty (30) days of approval by the SDOH.

68 (7) The composition of the advisory council shall be the
69 following:

70 (a) Two (2) employees of the SDOH, one (1) of whom must
71 have experience in reviewing and writing grant proposals;

72 (b) Two (2) executive employees of Mississippi
73 qualified health centers, one (1) of whom must be a chief
74 financial officer;

75 (c) Two (2) health care providers who are affiliated
76 with a Mississippi qualified health center; and

77 (d) One (1) health care provider who is not affiliated
78 with a Mississippi qualified health center nor the SDOH but has
79 training and experience in primary care.

80 (8) The SDOH may use a portion of any grant monies received
81 under this chapter to administer the program and to pay reasonable
82 expenses incurred by the advisory council; provided, however, in
83 no case shall more than one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) or Sixty
84 Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) annually, whichever is less, be used
85 to absorb program expenses.

86 (9) No assistance shall be provided to a Mississippi
87 qualified health center under this chapter unless the Mississippi
88 qualified health center certifies to the SDOH, that it will not
89 discriminate against any employee or against any applicant for
90 employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex
91 or age.

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2004.