

By: Representative Warren

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 295
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH PROVIDES THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE DATE
3 OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-3, MISSISSIPPI
4 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE BYLAWS AND RULES OF SUCH TASK
5 FORCE, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-89-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 41-89-1. (1) There is created the Infant Mortality Task
11 Force, the purpose of which is to foster the reduction of infant
12 mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve the health
13 status of mothers and infants.

14 (2) The Infant Mortality Task Force is continued and
15 reconstituted as follows: The task force shall be composed of
16 eleven (11) voting members appointed as follows:

17 (a) The Governor shall appoint seven (7) members, with
18 two (2) from each Mississippi Supreme Court district and one (1)
19 from the state at large.

20 (b) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint two (2)
21 members from the state at large.

22 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
23 appoint two (2) members from the state at large.

24 (d) The task force shall be comprised of persons with a
25 professional association with or special interest in maternal and
26 infant health and well-being.

27 (e) Any member of the Infant Mortality Task Force
28 appointed and serving prior to July 1, 1995, shall be eligible for
29 reappointment to the task force.

30 (3) The Governor shall appoint two (2) members for initial
31 terms that expire on June 30, 1996, two (2) members for initial
32 terms that expire on June 30, 1997, and three (3) members for
33 initial terms that expire on June 30, 1998. The Lieutenant
34 Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
35 one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30, 1997,
36 and one (1) member for an initial term that expires on June 30,
37 1998. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for terms of
38 three (3) years from the expiration of the previous term. No
39 member shall serve more than two (2) successive full terms. Any
40 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be
41 filled for the unexpired term by the appropriate appointing
42 authority. An appointment to fill an unexpired term shall not be
43 considered as a full term.

44 (4) The administrative head of the following state agencies
45 shall designate one (1) employee to serve in an advisory capacity
46 as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Infant Mortality Task
47 Force: (a) Mississippi Department of Health; (b) State Department
48 of Education; (c) Department of Human Services; (d) Mississippi
49 Department of Mental Health; (e) Division of Medicaid; and (f) the
50 University Medical Center. In addition there shall be one (1)
51 member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association who
52 shall serve in an advisory capacity as an ex officio nonvoting
53 member.

54 (5) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare
55 Committee and one (1) member of the committee to be designated by
56 the chairman, and the Chairman of the House Public Health and
57 Welfare Committee and one (1) member of the committee to be
58 designated by the chairman shall serve in an advisory capacity as
59 ex officio nonvoting members of the Infant Mortality Task Force.

60 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

61 **SECTION 2.** Section 41-89-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
62 amended as follows:

63 41-89-3. (1) The Chairman of the Infant Mortality Task
64 Force shall be elected annually by the task force membership. The
65 task force shall adopt bylaws and rules for its efficient
66 operation, which may include designation of its organizational
67 structure including other officers and committees, duties of
68 officers and committees, a process for selecting officers, quorum
69 requirements for committees, provisions for special or ad hoc
70 committees, staff policies and other such procedures as may be
71 necessary. The task force may establish committees responsible
72 for conducting specific task force programs or activities.

73 (2) The task force shall be assigned to the State Department
74 of Health for administrative purposes only, and the department
75 shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task force
76 shall have a line item in the budget of the State Department of
77 Health and shall be financed through the department's annual
78 appropriation. Members of the task force may receive, within the
79 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
80 while engaged in official business of the task force.

81 (3) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
82 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
83 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
84 public comment provided on a regular basis. Notice of all
85 meetings shall be given as provided in the Open Meetings Act
86 (Section 25-41-1 et seq.) and appropriate notice also shall be
87 given to all persons so requesting of the date, time and place of
88 each meeting.

89 (4) The Infant Mortality Task Force, in conjunction with the
90 State Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the
91 State Department of Education and the Division of Medicaid, shall
92 develop and implement a campaign for intensive outreach to high
93 risk populations in Mississippi to encourage them to avail
94 themselves of family planning, prenatal care and infant health
95 services.

96 (5) The Infant Mortality Task Force may apply for and expend
97 grants or other contributions for the purpose of promoting
98 maternal and infant health in Mississippi.

99 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

100 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
101 and after July 1, 2005.