

By: Representative Coleman (65th)

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1160

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION TASK FORCE;
2 TO SPECIFY THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the
5 second most common cancer in women worldwide, and ninety-nine and
6 seven-tenths percent (99-7/10%) of cervical cancer cases are
7 linked to HPV (human papillomavirus); and

8 WHEREAS, HPV is a very common infection, and according to
9 federal governmental statistics, cervical cancer is the third most
10 common gynecological cancer among American women, with
11 approximately twelve thousand two hundred (12,200) new cases
12 diagnosed annually, four thousand one hundred (4,100) of which
13 result in fatalities; and

14 WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority
15 women, in the United States, African-American women have the
16 highest age-adjusted mortality rate from cervical cancer and are
17 followed by Latino-American women. Among women thirty (30)
18 through fifty-four (54) years old, Vietnamese women have the
19 highest incidence, followed by Latino-American women and African-
20 American women; and

21 WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer
22 is highly preventable, and widespread screening programs have
23 helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical cancer, but
24 women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques
25 and evaluation procedures; and

26 WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer
27 awareness among women, significantly reduces the probability of
28 mortality; and

29 WHEREAS, approximately one-half (1/2) of all cervical cancer
30 cases are in women who have never been screened, and ten percent
31 (10%) of cases are in women who have not been screened within the
32 last five (5) years; and

33 WHEREAS, new screening technologies now available and
34 vaccines that are in development, offer new methods in preventing
35 and controlling the risk of cervical cancer; and

36 WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the
37 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American
38 Cancer Society and the Association of Reproductive Health
39 Professionals, have recently updated their screening guidelines to
40 include FDA-approved testing for HPV; and

41 WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer
42 information so that they can be empowered to make health care
43 decisions: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

45 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Cervical Cancer
46 Elimination Task Force, which shall have the following duties:

47 (a) Review data regarding cervical cancer and human
48 papillomavirus (HPV) of women within all states and territories of
49 the United States;

50 (b) Evaluate current methods used to provide women with
51 information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular screening
52 and options for increasing use of new technology to test for and
53 prevent HPV; and

54 (c) Identify pockets of need, priority strategies and
55 new technologies, including newly introduced therapies and
56 preventative vaccines that are effective in preventing and
57 controlling the risk of cervical cancer.

58 The task force shall make a report of its findings and
59 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2005, including
60 any recommended legislation.

61 (2) The task force shall be composed of seven (7) members,
62 as follows:

63 (a) Three (3) members of the House of Representatives
64 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

65 (b) Three (3) members of the Senate to be appointed by
66 the Lieutenant Governor; and

67 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Chapter
68 of the American Cancer Society, or his or her designee.

69 (3) Legislative appointments shall be made within thirty
70 (30) days after the effective date of this act. Within fifteen
71 (15) days thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the
72 Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force
73 shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a
74 chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve
75 as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of
76 the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall
77 constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the
78 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of
79 a majority of the task force shall be required. All members shall
80 be notified in writing of all meetings, and those notices shall be
81 mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a
82 meeting is to be held.

83 (4) The member of the task force who is not a legislator
84 shall be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section
85 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 25-3-41
86 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the performance of his
87 or her duties. Legislative members of the task force shall be
88 paid from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses
89 in the same manner as provided for committee meetings when the
90 Legislature is not in session. However, no per diem or expenses

91 for attending meetings of the task force will be paid to
92 legislative members of the task force while the Legislature is in
93 session. No task force member may incur per diem, travel or other
94 expenses unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the
95 task force, which action shall be recorded in the official minutes
96 of the meeting. The nonlegislative member shall be paid from any
97 funds made available to the task force for that purpose.

98 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2005.