

By: Representative Holland

To: Public Health and Human
ServicesCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 560

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW PANEL, WHOSE PRIMARY
2 PURPOSE IS TO FOSTER THE REDUCTION OF INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY
3 AND MORBIDITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF
4 INFANTS AND CHILDREN; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL BE
5 ASSIGNED TO THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
6 PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
7 ANNUALLY TO THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON
8 CHILD AND INFANT DEATHS IN MISSISSIPPI AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW
9 TO MOST EFFECTIVELY DIRECT STATE RESOURCES TO DECREASE INFANT AND
10 CHILD DEATHS IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT DATA FOR THE REVIEW
11 PANEL'S REVIEW AND REPORTING SHALL BE SUPPLIED BY THE STATE
12 MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

13 Whereas, the protection of the health and welfare of the
14 children of Mississippi is a goal of its people, and the high
15 number of unexpected deaths of infants and children under age 18
16 is an important public health concern that requires legislative
17 action; and

18 Whereas collecting data on the causes of unexpected deaths
19 will better enable the state to protect infants and children from
20 preventable deaths and will help reduce the incidents of those
21 deaths; and

22 Whereas, multidisciplinary reviews of child deaths can assist
23 the state in the investigation of child deaths, in the development
24 of a greater understanding of the incidence and causes of child
25 deaths, and in identifying gaps in services to children and
26 families: NOW THEREFORE,

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

28 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Child Death Review
29 Panel, whose primary purpose is to foster the reduction of infant
30 and child mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve
31 the health status of infants and children.

32 (2) The Child Death Review Panel shall be composed of 13
33 voting members: the State Medical Examiner or his representative,
34 a pathologist on staff at the University of Mississippi Medical
35 Center, and one representative from each of the following: the
36 State Coroners Association, the state chapter of the American
37 Academy of Pediatrics, the Office of Vital Statistics in the State
38 Department of Health, the Attorney General's Office, the State
39 Sheriff's Association, the Mississippi Police Chiefs Association,
40 the Department of Human Services, the Children's Advocacy Center,
41 the state chapter of the March of Dimes, the state SIDS Alliance,
42 and Compassionate Friends.

43 (3) The chairman of the Child Death Review Panel shall be
44 elected annually by the Review Panel membership. The Review Panel
45 shall develop and implement such procedures and policies necessary
46 for its operation, including obtaining and protecting confidential
47 records. The Review Panel shall be assigned to the State Medical
48 Examiner's Office for administrative purposes only, and the
49 Medical Examiner shall designate staff to assist the Review Panel.

50 (4) The Child Death Review Panel shall submit a report
51 annually to the Chairmen of the House Public Health and Human
52 Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare
53 Committee on or before December 1. The report shall include the
54 numbers, causes and relevant demographic information on child and
55 infant deaths in Mississippi, and appropriate recommendations to
56 the Legislature on how to most effectively direct state resources
57 to decrease infant and child deaths in Mississippi. Data for the
58 Review Panel's review and reporting shall be supplied by the State
59 Medical Examiner's Office. This office shall also be responsible
60 for printing and distributing the annual report(s) on child and
61 infant deaths in Mississippi.

62 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
63 and after July 1, 2006.