

By: Representative Warren

To: Public Health and Human  
Services

## HOUSE BILL NO. 782

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INFANT MORTALITY TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE  
3 DATE OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 41-89-3,  
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE BYLAWS AND RULES OF  
5 SUCH TASK FORCE, TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION; AND  
6 FOR 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, 2012.

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, 2012.

100           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
101 and after July 1, 2006.