

By: Representatives Evans, Straughter

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 818

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 71-1-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN OCCUPATIONAL
3 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 71-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 71-1-1. The State Board of Health shall establish an
8 occupational health and safety program and is empowered:

9 (a) To employ * * * qualified personnel as staff to
10 carry out the duties and responsibilities set forth herein;

11 (b) To develop and make available upon request to all
12 employers of the state, including public employers, information,
13 consultation and assistance related to safety and health laws,
14 regulations, measures and standards, and to participate and assist
15 with training and educational programs that are directed toward
16 employee safety and disease prevention;

17 (c) To employ * * * personnel and procure * * *
18 equipment as necessary to provide on-site consultive services
19 related to assistance, information, education or training of
20 employers and employees toward compliance with safety and health
21 standards and toward the establishment of safety and health
22 programs to prevent work-connected disabilities;

23 (d) To collect, compile and report statistics related
24 to work-connected disabilities in Mississippi and such statistical
25 work shall be performed in cooperation with other
26 statistic-gathering agencies with the federal and state

27 governments. Such statistical reports as may be available shall
28 be made known to employers and employees.

29 (e) To receive such federal or state grants and
30 appropriations as available to further the education, training and
31 assistance to the employers and employees of Mississippi in
32 preventing work-connected disabilities.

33 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
34 authorizing the State Board of Health to administer or enforce in
35 any way the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, known as
36 OSHA.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2007.