

By: Representatives Dickson, Cockerham,  
Ellis, Fredericks, Holloway, Myers, Perkins

To: Public Health and Human  
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1204

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON HEALTH; TO  
2 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT TO THE 2008 REGULAR SESSION OF  
3 THE LEGISLATURE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH;  
4 TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF  
5 THE COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Commission  
8 on Health to establish measurable health goals for the State of  
9 Mississippi. The commission shall make recommendations on all  
10 aspects of health with an emphasis on prevention, health promotion  
11 and reducing disparities among such groups as low-income families,  
12 racial minorities and the elderly. At a minimum, the commission  
13 shall study, make recommendations and report to the 2008 Regular  
14 Session of the Legislature on the following:

- 15 (a) Health care distresses;
- 16 (b) Soaring health care costs;
- 17 (c) The condition and viability of the state's health  
18 care system;
- 19 (d) Uninsured patients accessibility to quality health  
20 care and lack thereof;
- 21 (e) The state's ability to match federal Medicaid  
22 funding;
- 23 (f) Balancing the state's health care needs with the  
24 resources available;
- 25 (g) Prevention;
- 26 (h) Health care promotion; and
- 27 (i) Reducing disparities among low-income families,  
28 racial minorities and the uninsured population.

29           The commission shall make a report of its findings and  
30 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2007, including  
31 any recommended legislation.

32           (2) The commission shall be composed of the following  
33 twenty-four (24) members:

34           (a) The Chairman of the Senate Public Health and  
35 Welfare Committee and the House Public Health and Human Services  
36 Committees;

37           (b) The Vice Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and  
38 Welfare Committee and the House Public Health and Human Services  
39 Committee;

40           (c) One (1) senator, who is a member of the Senate  
41 Public Health and Welfare Committee, to be appointed by the  
42 Lieutenant Governor;

43           (d) The Chairman of the House Medicaid Committee; and

44           (e) Eighteen (18) members to be appointed by the  
45 Governor, which shall consist of persons selected from the  
46 following categories:

47           (i) One (1) member representing a large  
48 self-insured employer;

49           (ii) One (1) member representing an employer  
50 insured with a privately purchased group health insurance policy;

51           (iii) One (1) member who is a mental health care  
52 provider;

53           (iv) One (1) member who is a health care provider  
54 who is not licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a licensed  
55 dentist;

56           (v) One (1) member who is licensed to practice  
57 medicine and surgery;

58           (vi) One (1) member who is a licensed dentist;

59           (vii) One (1) member who is a licensed  
60 chiropractor;

61                   (viii) One (1) member who is a registered nurse or  
62 a licensed practical nurse;  
63                   (ix) One (1) member who is a licensed physical  
64 therapist or occupational therapist;  
65                   (x) One (1) member representing the State  
66 Department of Health;  
67                   (xi) One (1) member representing small business;  
68                   (xii) One (1) member representing a county health  
69 department;  
70                   (xiii) One (1) member representing organized  
71 labor;  
72                   (xiv) One (1) member who is a consumer of health  
73 care;  
74                   (xv) One (1) member representing the AARP;  
75                   (xvi) one (1) member representing a major  
76 insurance company;  
77                   (xvii) One (1) member representing public health  
78 academia; and  
79                   (xviii) One (1) member representing K-12  
80 education.

81           (3) Appointments to the commission shall be made within  
82 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. The joint  
83 committee shall hold its first meeting before August 1, 2007. The  
84 Chairmen of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the  
85 House Public Health and Human Services Committee shall serve as  
86 cochairmen of the commission.

87           (4) A majority of the members of the commission shall  
88 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of rules, resolutions and  
89 reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members shall be  
90 required. All members shall be notified in writing of all  
91 meetings, and the notices shall be mailed at least five (5) days  
92 before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

93           (5) Members of the commission shall receive per diem  
94 compensation, expense reimbursement and mileage for attending  
95 commission meetings, as provided in Sections 25-3-41 and 25-3-69.

96           (6) The commission may accept funds from any source, public  
97 or private, to be expended in implementing its duties under this  
98 section.

99           (7) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any  
100 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the  
101 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request  
102 of the cochairmen of the commission, provide such facilities,  
103 assistance and data as will enable the commission to properly  
104 carry out its duties.

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