

By: Representatives Evans, Straughter

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
2 SAFETY AND HEALTHFULNESS OF WORKING CONDITIONS IN MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this state to assure so far as
4 possible safe and healthful working conditions for every working
5 person in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the Legislature seeks to further the advances
7 already made through employer and employee initiatives providing
8 safe and healthful working conditions; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the separate but
10 dependent responsibilities and rights that employers and employees
11 have with respect to achieving safe and healthful working
12 conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the state's interest and
14 responsibility to promote and preserve Mississippi's human
15 resources by instituting new programs and perfecting existing
16 programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That a House study
19 committee is created to study the need and feasibility of
20 establishing within the State Department of Health an office to
21 set mandatory occupational safety and health standards applicable
22 to businesses.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House shall
24 appoint members of the committee. After the members are
25 appointed, the membership shall meet on a date mutually agreed
26 upon by a majority of the members for the purposes of organizing
27 the committee and establishing rules for transacting its business

28 and keeping records. A majority of members of the committee shall
29 constitute a quorum at all committee meetings. An affirmative
30 vote of a majority of the members present and voting shall be
31 required in the adoption of rules, resolutions, reports and in any
32 other actions taken by the committee. All members of the
33 committee shall be notified in writing of all regular and special
34 meetings of the committee, which notices shall be mailed at least
35 five days before the date of the meetings. The committee shall
36 hold a minimum of four regular meetings.

37 The committee is directed to receive expert testimony,
38 information and recommendations related to:

39 (a) The field of occupational safety and health, including
40 psychological factors, and currently accepted methods, techniques
41 and approaches for dealing with occupational safety and health
42 problems;

43 (b) Current practices for the identification of casual
44 connections between diseases and work in environmental conditions,
45 as distinguished from occupational safety;

46 (c) The adoption of medical criteria which can assure,
47 insofar as practicable, that no employee will suffer diminished
48 health, functional capacity or life expectancy as a result of work
49 experience;

50 (d) The establishment of training programs to increase the
51 number and competence of Department of Health personnel engaged in
52 the field of occupational safety and health; and

53 (e) The administration and enforcement of the Federal
54 Occupational Safety and Health Act, known as OSHA, by the State
55 Department of Health.

56 The committee shall make a written report, with findings and
57 recommendations including, but not limited to, its discovery of
58 appropriate procedures with respect to current and accepted
59 occupational safety and health practices, an accurate description
60 of the nature of current occupational safety and health programs

61 in Mississippi, an accurate description of the nature of existing
62 occupational safety and health programs in Mississippi, an
63 accurate description of the nature of existing occupational safety
64 and health problems in Mississippi, and a detailed analysis of
65 testimony, statements and opinions of the advantages and
66 disadvantages of implementing, administering and enforcing the
67 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to the Mississippi
68 House of Representatives by January 1 of each year. The report
69 shall include an estimate of the projected cost of implementing,
70 administering and enforcing its recommendations as well as the
71 projected cost of implementing, administering and enforcing the
72 "Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970."

73 For attending the meetings of the committee, each member
74 shall be paid, from the Contingent Expense Fund, per diem
75 compensation in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69,
76 Mississippi Code of 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense
77 allowance in the amount authorized by Section 51-1-47, Mississippi
78 Code of 1972. However, no per diem compensation, mileage
79 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending
80 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and
81 no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance
82 shall be paid without prior approval of the proper committee.

83 All expenses incurred by or on behalf of the committee shall
84 be paid from funds made available by the House Management
85 Committee from the Contingent Expense Fund, from any funds
86 appropriated for the purpose of this resolution and from any
87 grants or contributions made to the committee for its purpose.

88 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the
89 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of
90 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state.