

By: Senator(s) Walls

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2933

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
2 DEVELOP AND OPERATE TWO STD/HIV SPECIALTY CLINICS IN UNDERSERVED
3 AREAS OF THE STATE BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2007; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus
6 (HIV) is not curable but may be controlled through early detection
7 and access to specialty care, including antiretroviral
8 medications; and

9 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) reports a
10 total of 8,330 people living with HIV disease as of December 31,
11 2005; and

12 WHEREAS, MDH surveillance data indicate that 4,244 or 51% of
13 these Mississippians did not access care for their HIV disease in
14 2005; and

15 WHEREAS, people living with HIV disease who are not in care
16 typically have greater HIV viral loads and are more likely to
17 transmit HIV to another person; and

18 WHEREAS, people who are also infected with any other sexually
19 transmitted disease (STD) are more likely to transmit HIV to
20 another person; and

21 WHEREAS, science-based, age-, culturally- and
22 linguistically-appropriate STD/HIV prevention interventions reduce
23 the risk of becoming infected with HIV; and

24 WHEREAS, the life expectancy of people living with HIV
25 disease who receive optimal medical care is 24.2 years and the
26 undiscounted cost of this care is \$618,900.00; and

27 WHEREAS, the MDH has developed a highly successful STD/HIV
28 specialty center in the Jackson Medical Mall in collaboration with

29 Mall Services, LLC and the University of Mississippi Medical
30 Center; and

31 WHEREAS, north central Mississippi and southwest Mississippi
32 have limited access to primary HIV care; and

33 WHEREAS, the statewide MDH AIDS Drug Assistance Program
34 (ADAP) HIV viral medication resource of last resort is now
35 spending more money than allocated for that purpose in
36 Mississippi's Ryan White Title II Award; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

38 **SECTION 1.** The State Board of Health is hereby empowered and
39 directed to expand access to primary care for HIV disease, as
40 provided in Section 2 of this act, for not later than December 31,
41 2007.

42 **SECTION 2.** The State Department of Health shall:

43 (a) Develop and operate two (2) STD/HIV specialty
44 clinics based on the Crossroads Clinics model in the Jackson
45 Medical Mall in or near north central Mississippi and southwest
46 Mississippi;

47 (b) Provide HIV antiretroviral medications to any
48 Mississippi living with HIV disease unable to pay and/or qualify
49 for various assistance programs free of charge; and

50 (c) Incorporate science-based, age-, culturally- and
51 linguistically-appropriate STD/HIV prevention and education
52 messages and interventions through clinic and outreach encounters
53 in the counties immediately surrounding the clinics.

54 There is created a STD/HIV fund in the State Treasury for
55 expenditure by the State Department of Health for the projects
56 authorized under this act subject to appropriation therefor by the
57 Legislature. Any funds that are not expended by the end of the
58 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund.

59 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2007.