

By: Representative Hines

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 35

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-3-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH THE WISEWOMAN
3 AND WISEMAN PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCES OF CERTAIN CHRONIC
4 DISEASES AMONG MISSISSIPPIANS THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND
5 EARLY SCREENING AND DETECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAMS SHALL
6 BE IMPLEMENTED IN EACH COUNTY THAT IS LOCATED WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY
7 WEST OF INTERSTATE 55; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-3-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 41-3-13. (1) The Legislature makes the following findings:

12 (a) Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent,
13 costly and preventable of all health problems.

14 (b) Screening tests are currently available that can
15 detect heart disease, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal
16 cancer, prostate cancer and other chronic diseases early, when
17 they can be most effectively treated, managed or controlled.

18 (c) The risk factors for many chronic diseases can be
19 addressed and reduced through education about those risk factors



20 and the importance of actions that can be taken for prevention of
21 chronic diseases.

22 (d) People should partner with their health care
23 providers to have their risk factors assessed, monitored and
24 managed in accordance with national guidelines, and should be
25 educated about the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke
26 and the importance of getting help quickly at the onset of those
27 symptoms.

28 (e) Mississippi should have programs that are
29 specifically designed to reduce the incidences of chronic diseases
30 among our population.

31 (2) The State Department of Health * * * shall establish the
32 WISEWOMAN * * * program and the WISEMAN * * * program, the
33 purposes and goals of which are to reduce the incidences of
34 certain chronic diseases among Mississippians through education,
35 prevention and early screening and detection. * * * The WISEWOMAN
36 and WISEMAN programs shall be implemented in each county that is
37 located wholly or partially west of Interstate 55. The focus of
38 the WISEWOMAN * * * program shall be heart disease, stroke, breast
39 cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer in women, and the
40 focus of the WISEMAN * * * program shall be heart disease, stroke,
41 prostate cancer, colorectal cancer and diabetes in men. At a
42 minimum, the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN * * * programs shall:

43 (a) Provide for education about healthy behaviors and
44 how to reduce the risk factors for those chronic diseases;



45 (b) Provide for screening and testing to detect those
46 chronic diseases early when they can be effectively treated,
47 managed or controlled; and

48 (c) Be directed toward those populations at greatest
49 need and be based on a foundation of scientific evidence.

50 (3) In implementing the WISEWOMAN and WISEMAN * * *
51 programs, the department shall contract with public or private
52 clinics or agencies that have demonstrated success in reducing
53 incidences of those chronic diseases through education, prevention
54 and early screening and detection.

55 (4) The department shall seek and apply for grants from the
56 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public or
57 private entities to obtain funding for the WISEWOMAN and
58 WISEMAN * * * programs.

59 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2024.

