

By: Representative Zuber

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1270

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-19-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
3 COMMISSIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-19-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 41-19-35. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection
8 (2) and (3), except as otherwise provided in this section, the
9 board of supervisors of each participating county in the program
10 shall appoint one (1) member to represent its county on the
11 regional commission in its respective region for a term of four
12 (4) years who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the
13 appointing board of supervisors, who may be a clerk, sheriff or
14 deputy. In addition, the chancery clerks of the counties in each
15 region shall select a chancery clerk or a deputy clerk to serve as
16 a nonvoting liaison to the commission, and the sheriffs of the
17 counties in each region shall select a sheriff or a deputy sheriff
18 to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the commission. Any



19 compensation of such members shall be paid by the regional
20 commission, in its discretion, from any funds available. Each
21 member of the commission shall attend the orientation training for
22 new commissioners and the annual training for all commissioners
23 held by the Department of Mental Health. The Department of Mental
24 Health shall notify the board of supervisors when a commissioner
25 does not attend either the orientation training or annual
26 training. Upon notice from the Department of Mental Health that a
27 commissioner has failed to attend the required meetings, the
28 appointing board of supervisors shall remove the commissioner,
29 unless the department and the commission agree to an alternate
30 arrangement to allow the commissioner to continue to serve until
31 the next opportunity to attend the orientation meeting and/or the
32 annual training.

33 (2) Beginning on July 1, 2024, each regional commission
34 consisting of only two (2) counties that border the State of
35 Alabama shall be comprised of five (5) members. The board of
36 supervisors of each participating county described in this
37 subsection shall appoint two (2) members to represent its
38 respective county on the commission, and an additional member
39 shall be appointed by the board of supervisors of the county
40 having the largest population according to the latest federal
41 decennial census. Appointees to the regional commission under
42 this subsection shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Any



43 compensation of such members shall be paid by the regional
44 commission, in its discretion, from any available funds.

45 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2024, each regional commission
46 consisting of only one (1) county that borders the State of
47 Alabama shall be comprised of up to five (5) members. The board
48 of supervisors of the participating county described in this
49 subsection shall appoint members to the commission. Appointees to
50 the regional commission under this subsection shall serve for a
51 term of four (4) years. Any compensation of such members shall be
52 paid by the regional commission, in its discretion, from any
53 available funds.

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

