

By: Representative Holland

To: Public Health and Human
ServicesHOUSE BILL NO. 560
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW PANEL, WHOSE PRIMARY
2 PURPOSE IS TO FOSTER THE REDUCTION OF INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY
3 AND MORBIDITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF
4 INFANTS AND CHILDREN; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL BE
5 ASSIGNED TO THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
6 PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
7 ANNUALLY TO THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON
8 CHILD AND INFANT DEATHS IN MISSISSIPPI AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW
9 TO MOST EFFECTIVELY DIRECT STATE RESOURCES TO DECREASE INFANT AND
10 CHILD DEATHS IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT DATA FOR THE REVIEW
11 PANEL'S REVIEW AND REPORTING SHALL BE SUPPLIED BY THE STATE
12 MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Child Death Review
15 Panel, whose primary purpose is to foster the reduction of infant
16 and child mortality and morbidity in Mississippi and to improve
17 the health status of infants and children.

18 (2) The Child Death Review Panel shall be composed of
19 fifteen (15) voting members: the State Medical Examiner or his
20 representative, a pathologist on staff at the University of
21 Mississippi Medical Center, an appointee of the Lieutenant
22 Governor, an appointee of the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, and one (1) representative from each of the
24 following: the State Coroners Association, the Mississippi
25 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Office of Vital
26 Statistics in the State Department of Health, the Attorney
27 General's Office, the State Sheriff's Association, the Mississippi
28 Police Chiefs Association, the Department of Human Services, the
29 Children's Advocacy Center, the State Chapter of the March of
30 Dimes, the State SIDS Alliance, and Compassionate Friends.

31 (3) The Chairman of the Child Death Review Panel shall be
32 elected annually by the Review Panel membership. The Review Panel

33 shall develop and implement such procedures and policies necessary
34 for its operation, including obtaining and protecting confidential
35 records. The Review Panel shall be assigned to the State Medical
36 Examiner's Office for administrative purposes only, and the
37 Medical Examiner shall designate staff to assist the Review Panel.

38 (4) The Child Death Review Panel shall submit a report
39 annually to the Chairmen of the House Public Health and Human
40 Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare
41 Committee on or before December 1. The report shall include the
42 numbers, causes and relevant demographic information on child and
43 infant deaths in Mississippi, and appropriate recommendations to
44 the Legislature on how to most effectively direct state resources
45 to decrease infant and child deaths in Mississippi. Data for the
46 Review Panel's review and reporting shall be supplied by the State
47 Medical Examiner's Office. This office shall also be responsible
48 for printing and distributing the annual report(s) on child and
49 infant deaths in Mississippi.

50 (5) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2006.