

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.