

By: Representatives Holland, Scott, Clark

To: Education;
AppropriationsHOUSE BILL NO. 868
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO APPLY
2 FOR FEDERAL GRANTS AND TO PROVIDE AN INFLUENZA VACCINATION SCHOOL
3 PROGRAM IN MISSISSIPPI FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN 5 THROUGH 18 YEARS
4 OF AGE AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR THE PROGRAM; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The State of Mississippi finds as follows:

8 (a) Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness
9 caused by influenza viruses. The best way to help prevent
10 seasonal influenza is by getting a vaccination each year.

11 (b) Every year in the United States, on average, more
12 than two hundred thousand (200,000) people are hospitalized from
13 influenza-related complications and about thirty-six thousand
14 (36,000) people, mostly the elderly, die from influenza-related
15 causes.

16 (c) The United States Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
18 recommends seasonal influenza vaccinations for all eligible
19 persons in the United States, including eligible children aged six
20 (6) months through eighteen (18) years of age.

21 (d) Children and young adults five (5) years to
22 nineteen (19) years of age are three (3) to four (4) times more
23 likely to be infected with influenza than adults.

24 (e) School-aged children are the population group most
25 responsible for transmission of contagious respiratory viruses,
26 including influenza.



27 (f) The elderly are the next most vulnerable population
28 to severe illness from influenza due to weaker immune response to
29 vaccination.

30 (g) School-located influenza vaccination programs may
31 be an effective way to vaccinate children while reducing
32 transmission and infection rates to the larger community and at
33 the same time reducing rates of school absenteeism due to children
34 being infected with influenza.

35 (h) Schools can be an effective infrastructure tool to
36 improve pandemic planning by identifying known and effective
37 pandemic vaccination centers.

38 (i) Although experience has demonstrated the
39 feasibility and success of school-located influenza vaccination
40 programs in vaccinating children, funding and logistical issues,
41 particularly involving the delivery of vaccine to children with
42 private insurance coverage, are issues with program
43 sustainability.

44 (j) Given the significant fiscal challenges ahead for
45 Mississippi, it is important for the Legislature to ensure that
46 state agencies maximize their opportunity to obtain additional
47 federal funds.

48 (k) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting
49 this act to take full advantage of the funding and grant
50 opportunities through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
51 Act (PPACA) to improve state health care programs and invest in
52 health prevention.

53 **SECTION 2.** Funding for School-Located Influenza Vaccination
54 Programs.

55 (1) The State Department of Health shall apply, unless there
56 is a maintenance of effort, then the department, in its
57 discretion, may apply, for federal grants and appropriations under
58 the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA),
59 Public Law 111-148, to fund, build infrastructure, promote and



60 expand school-located influenza vaccination programs to provide
61 seasonal influenza vaccinations for school-aged children. The
62 agency shall seek grants and appropriations from the following
63 sources:

64 (a) Section 4201 of PPACA, Community Transformation
65 Grants for the promotion of healthy living and reduction of racial
66 and ethnic disparities.

67 (b) Section 4002, the Prevention and Public Health
68 Investment Fund for prevention and public health initiatives.

69 (c) Section 4004, which provides funding for public
70 education and outreach programs to encourage preventive care
71 services.

72 (d) Section 1201, which directs the United States
73 Department of Health and Human Services to fund demonstration
74 projects to test wellness initiatives in the individual insurance
75 market.

76 (e) Any other federal or private funding and grant
77 opportunities for prevention and vaccination.

78 (2) The State Department of Health shall make information
79 regarding federal grant and appropriations opportunities under
80 PPACA available to local government agencies, local public health
81 departments, school districts, and state and local nonprofit
82 organizations via the agency's website.

83 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after July 1, 2011, and shall stand repealed June 30, 2011.

