

April 23, 2015

TO THE SENATE

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 2370

I am returning without my approval Senate Bill Number 2370: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-13-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED BY HOUSE BILL NO. 545, 2015 REGULAR SESSION, TO AUTHORIZE THE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE OF THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID TO MEET AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES; TO REVISE THE COMPOSITION AND THE DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES", without my approval and assign the following reasons for my veto.

Senate Bill 2370 would change the composition and duties of the Medical Care Advisory Committee, a committee required by federal regulation to advise the Division of Medicaid about health and medical care services. The bill also changes the meeting frequency of the Division of Medicaid's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee from "at least quarterly" to "as needed".

While I do not object to the amendment related to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, this change already is addressed in House Bill 545, which I am signing into law.

Senate Bill 2370 would arbitrarily eliminate the Governor's at-large appointment to the Medical Care Advisory Committee and specify additional duties on the Committee, such as recommending models for the Medicaid program "that allows Mississippi to better leverage federal funds." These duties are duplicative at best.

Accordingly, I am vetoing Senate Bill 2370.

Respectfully submitted,

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR