

By: Representatives Scott (17th), Barnett
(92nd), Broomfield, Chaney, Coleman (65th),
Fredericks, Markham, McElwain, Miller,
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To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 973

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY
3 RESOURCE CENTERS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE GOAL OF FAMILY RESOURCE
4 CENTERS SHALL BE TO CREATE A BETTER LIFE FOR MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES
5 AND CHILDREN; TO SPECIFY CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE
6 THROUGH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO
7 ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT
8 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICANTS
9 FROM LEVELS I AND II SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO
10 HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER; TO
11 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO USE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO
12 PARTICIPATING FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT
13 TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE
14 DEPARTMENT TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEGISLATURE WHETHER OR NOT THE
15 PROGRAM SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED; AND FOR RELATED
16 PURPOSES.

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

18 SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Education, in its
19 discretion, may develop and implement a pilot program to assist in
20 the establishment of community-based family resource centers. The
21 goal of the family resource centers shall be to create a better
22 life for families and children in Mississippi, with emphasis being
23 placed on the emotional, physical, social and mental needs of the
24 whole family. The family resource centers shall provide parents
25 with opportunities to voluntarily obtain support and services that
26 will enable them to provide optimum learning environments for
27 their children, particularly from birth to the age of three (3)
28 years, within the home. The family resource centers shall serve
29 to build community support networks to support children and
30 families through the implementation of activities such as
31 after-school tutorial programs, educational opportunities for
32 parents, a resource library with resource and referral services,
33 parenting classes and support groups. The family resource centers

34 shall focus on school readiness and early literacy and shall
35 provide developmental programs for pre-kindergarten-age children.

36 (2) Under the pilot program, the department shall establish
37 a procedure for interested school districts and other nonprofit
38 entities to apply for assistance in establishing a family resource
39 center. In selecting school districts and nonprofit entities for
40 the program, the department shall give priority to applicants that
41 are school districts having Level I or II accreditation or other
42 entities situated within school districts accredited at Level I or
43 II. At least one (1) family resource center shall be established
44 in each congressional district. The department shall assist
45 program participants in developing and implementing parent
46 education programs.

47 (3) As part of the application process for participation in
48 the pilot program, applicants must demonstrate to the department
49 that the family resource center is a collaborative undertaking of
50 various community organizations. Each applicant must have created
51 an advisory board for the family resource center, involving the
52 participation of the local school district or districts, the city
53 and county governing authorities, the county health department,
54 regional mental health centers, representatives of the Department
55 of Human Services and any other private or public entities
56 participating in the partnership.

57 (4) The State Department of Education may accept any funds,
58 public or private, made available to the department for the pilot
59 program. The funds shall be used to award grants to the
60 participating family resource centers for the support of such
61 centers. A family resource center may use any available funding
62 to support the administration and programs of the center.

63 (5) The State Department of Education shall promulgate
64 rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration of
65 this section.

66 (6) If the family resource center pilot program authorized
67 by this section is implemented, the State Department of Education
68 shall report to the Legislature, within three (3) years after the
69 pilot program's implementation, on the desirability of expanding
70 and permanently establishing the program.

71 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 1999.