

**\*\*\*Pending\*\*\***

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill NO. 129**

**By Senator(s) Committee**

1           **AMEND** by inserting the following after line 60 and  
2 **renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:**

3           SECTION \*. (1) The Legislature finds that:

4                   (a) Studies show that children who experience quality  
5 comprehensive early childhood services have higher academic and  
6 social ratings by their kindergarten teachers and better  
7 kindergarten attendance than children who do not;

8                   (b) Participation in quality comprehensive early  
9 childhood services helps children develop social and pre-academic  
10 skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten and throughout  
11 their educational experiences;

12                   (c) Other southeastern states have implemented  
13 pre-kindergarten programs similar to the Georgia Pre-Kindergarten  
14 Program for four-year-old children, emphasizing growth in language  
15 and literacy, math concepts, science, arts, physical development,  
16 and personal and social competence.

17           (2) There is hereby created a Task Force to Study the  
18 Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Early Childhood  
19 Services in Mississippi. The task force shall make a report of  
20 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least  
21 thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the 2000 Regular  
22 Session of the Legislature for implementation in the 2000-2001  
23 school year.

24 (3) The task force shall be composed of twenty-four (24)  
25 members as follows:

26 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education and  
27 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the Senate  
28 appointed by the President of the Senate;

29 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education and  
30 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the House of  
31 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

32 (c) A representative of the Governor;

33 (d) The State Superintendent of Education;

34 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of Health,  
35 the state child care licensing agency;

36 (f) The Executive Director of the Department of Human  
37 Services, the state Child Care Development Fund agency;

38 (g) Representatives of the early childhood profession:

39 (i) A Head Start director elected by the  
40 Mississippi Head Start Association;

41 (ii) A representative from a regulated family  
42 child care home network appointed by the Speaker of the House;

43 (iii) A representative from a licensed child care  
44 center appointed by the President of the Senate;

45 (iv) A teacher from a public school  
46 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

47 (v) A teacher from a private school  
48 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the President of the Senate;

49 (vi) A teacher from a half-day church sponsored  
50 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

51 (vii) A representative from a university or  
52 college early childhood teacher preparation program appointed by  
53 the President of the Senate;

54 (viii) A representative of a tribal early  
55 childhood program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

56 (ix) A representative of an early childhood

57 professional organization appointed by the President of the  
58 Senate; and

59 (x) A representative of an advocacy organization  
60 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

61 (h) A parent of a preschool-age child appointed by the  
62 President of the Senate; and

63 (i) A parent of a preschool-age child with special  
64 needs appointed by the Speaker of the House.

65 (4) In the event the Chairman of the Senate or House  
66 Education or Appropriations Committees is unable to attend any  
67 meeting of the task force, the vice-chairman of the respective  
68 committee shall be authorized to attend and vote at such meeting.

69 Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after passage  
70 of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days thereafter on a day to  
71 be designated jointly by the President of the Senate, the Speaker  
72 of the House and the State Superintendent of Education, the task  
73 force shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a  
74 chairman and a vice-chairmen. The vice-chairmen shall also serve  
75 as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of  
76 the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall  
77 constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the  
78 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of  
79 a majority of the task force shall be required. All members shall  
80 be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed  
81 at least five (5) days prior to the date on which a meeting is to  
82 be held.

83 (5) Members of the task force who are not legislators shall  
84 be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69,  
85 Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be reimbursed in accordance  
86 with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for mileage and  
87 actual expense incurred in the performance of their duties. Any  
88 member who is also a state employee shall not be eligible to  
89 receive per diem compensation. No task force member may incur per

**99\SS02\HB129A.1J \*SS02\HB129A.1J\***

90 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by  
91 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be  
92 recorded in the official minutes of said meeting. Legislative  
93 members of the committee shall be paid from the contingent expense  
94 funds of their respective houses in the same amounts as provided  
95 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;  
96 however, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task  
97 force will be paid while the Legislature is in session.  
98 Non-legislative members shall be paid from any funds made  
99 available to the task force for that purpose.

100 (6) The task force is empowered to hire staff independent of  
101 any agency represented, as well as to utilize clerical and legal  
102 staff already employed by the State Department of Education, the  
103 Office of the Governor and the Legislature and any other staff  
104 assistance made available to it.

105 (7) Funding for the task force may be provided from any  
106 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature to the State  
107 Department of Education for that purpose.

108 (8) Upon presentation of its report to the 2000 Regular  
109 Session, the task force shall be dissolved.

110 **FURTHER, amend line 62 by striking "July 1, 1999" and**  
111 **inserting "its passage".**

112 **FURTHER, amend the title by inserting the following after**  
113 **line 7:**

114 TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
115 IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN  
116 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
117 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2000 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE;