

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

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill NO. 973**

**By Senator(s) Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

22        SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Education, in its  
23 discretion, may develop and implement a pilot program to assist in  
24 the establishment of community-based family support centers and  
25 individual family or parent education services. The goal of the  
26 programs shall be to create a better life for families and  
27 children in Mississippi, with emphasis being placed on the  
28 emotional, physical, social and mental needs of the whole family.  
29 The family support centers and family or parent education service  
30 programs shall provide parents with opportunities to voluntarily  
31 obtain support and services that will enable them to provide  
32 optimum learning environments for their children, particularly  
33 from birth to the age of three (3) years, within the home. The  
34 family support centers shall serve to build community networks to  
35 support children and families through the implementation of the  
36 following care activities: parenting classes; developmental  
37 programs for prekindergarten-age children during parent education  
38 classes; support groups; individual family or parent education  
39 services; a resource library; and resource and referral services.  
40 Additional services may be provided to meet the identified family  
41 needs of the community and in keeping with the goals of the  
42 program. The family support centers shall focus on school

43 readiness and early literacy.

44 (2) Under the pilot program, the department shall establish  
45 a procedure for interested school districts and other nonprofit  
46 entities in partnership with a school district to apply for  
47 assistance in establishing a family support center. At least one  
48 (1) family support center shall be established in each  
49 congressional district.

50 (3) Under the pilot program, the department shall establish  
51 a procedure for interested school districts and other nonprofit  
52 entities in partnership with a school district to apply for  
53 individual family or parent education programs. Programs must use  
54 research based, independently evaluated, proven research models  
55 that are documented to have a positive impact on reducing special  
56 education placements, development of language and social skills,  
57 and parental involvement in schools.

58 (4) As part of the application process for participation in  
59 the pilot program, applicants must demonstrate to the department  
60 that the family support center is a collaborative undertaking of  
61 various community organizations. Each applicant must have created  
62 an advisory board for the family support center or parent  
63 education services programs, involving the participation of the  
64 local school district or districts, the city and county governing  
65 authorities, the county health department, regional mental health  
66 centers, the extension service, representatives of the Department  
67 of Human Services and any other private or public entities  
68 participating in the partnership.

69 (5) The State Department of Education may accept any funds,  
70 public or private, made available to the department for the pilot  
71 program. The funds shall be used to award grants to the  
72 participating family support centers or family or parent education  
73 services programs for the support of such programs. A family  
74 support center or family or parent education services program may  
75 use any available funding to support the administration and

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76 programs of the center or education services program.

77 (6) The State Department of Education shall promulgate  
78 rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration of  
79 this section. An advisory group shall be established to assist in  
80 the development of the rules and regulations for administration of  
81 the program. Members of the advisory group shall include, but not  
82 be limited to, representatives of the following categories:  
83 parents; local school districts' parent education programs staff;  
84 the Department of Human Services, Division of Family and  
85 Children's Services; Head Start; the cooperative extension  
86 services; and USOE funded parental assistance programs.

87 (7) If the family support center and family or parent  
88 education services pilot programs authorized by this section are  
89 implemented, the State Department of Education shall report to the  
90 Legislature, within three (3) years after the pilot program's  
91 implementation, on the desirability of expanding and permanently  
92 establishing the program.

93 SECTION 2. (1) The Legislature finds that:

94 (a) Studies show that children who experience quality  
95 comprehensive early childhood services have higher academic and  
96 social ratings by their kindergarten teachers and better  
97 kindergarten attendance than children who do not;

98 (b) Participation in quality comprehensive early  
99 childhood services helps children develop social and pre-academic  
100 skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten and throughout  
101 their educational experiences;

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

107 (2) There is hereby created a Task Force to Study the  
108 Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Early Childhood

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109 Services in Mississippi. The task force shall make a report of  
110 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least  
111 thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the 2000 Regular  
112 Session of the Legislature for implementation in the 2000-2001  
113 school year.

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

116 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education and  
117 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the Senate  
118 appointed by the President of the Senate;

119 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education and  
120 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the House of  
121 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

122 (c) A representative of the Governor;

123 (d) The State Superintendent of Education;

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

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

128 (g) Representatives of the early childhood profession:

129 (i) A Head Start director elected by the  
130 Mississippi Head Start Association;

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

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

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

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

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

141 (vii) A representative from a university or

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142 college early childhood teacher preparation program appointed by  
143 the President of the Senate;

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

146 (ix) A representative of an early childhood  
147 professional organization appointed by the President of the  
148 Senate; and

149 (x) A representative of an advocacy organization  
150 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

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

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

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

159 Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after passage  
160 of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days thereafter on a day to  
161 be designated jointly by the President of the Senate, the Speaker  
162 of the House and the State Superintendent of Education, the task  
163 force shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a  
164 chairman and a vice-chairmen. The vice-chairmen shall also serve  
165 as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of  
166 the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall  
167 constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the  
168 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of  
169 a majority of the task force shall be required. All members shall  
170 be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed  
171 at least five (5) days prior to the date on which a meeting is to  
172 be held.

173 (5) Members of the task force who are not legislators shall  
174 be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69,

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175 Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be reimbursed in accordance  
176 with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for mileage and  
177 actual expense incurred in the performance of their duties. Any  
178 member who is also a state employee shall not be eligible to  
179 receive per diem compensation. No task force member may incur per  
180 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by  
181 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be  
182 recorded in the official minutes of said meeting. Legislative  
183 members of the committee shall be paid from the contingent expense  
184 funds of their respective houses in the same amounts as provided  
185 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;  
186 however, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task  
187 force will be paid while the Legislature is in session.  
188 Non-legislative members shall be paid from any funds made  
189 available to the task force for that purpose.

190 (6) The task force is empowered to hire staff independent of  
191 any agency represented, as well as to utilize clerical and legal  
192 staff already employed by the State Department of Education, the  
193 Office of the Governor and the Legislature and any other staff  
194 assistance made available to it.

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

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

200 (9) The State Department of Education shall develop an  
201 annual reporting process to inform the Legislature, local school  
202 district personnel and the general public as to all existing early  
203 childhood programs in the state:

204 (a) Number of students and families served;

205 (b) Number of teachers and other personnel,  
206 certification and experience levels;

207 (c) Source of funds for each program;

208 (d) Budget, administrative costs and other pertinent  
209 fiscal information;

210 (e) Salary and fringe benefit information for each  
211 employee in an early childhood program;

212 (f) Cost of materials and other instructional costs  
213 related to an early childhood program;

214 (g) Other information as directed by the State Board of  
215 Education; and

216 (h) Analysis of this program's impact on Grades K-3.

217 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
218 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
2 IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY  
3 SUPPORT CENTERS AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
4 GOAL OF FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHALL  
5 BE TO CREATE A BETTER LIFE FOR MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES AND CHILDREN;  
6 TO SPECIFY CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH FAMILY  
7 SUPPORT CENTERS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH AN  
8 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO  
9 REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE  
10 FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO USE  
11 AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING FAMILY SUPPORT  
12 CENTERS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO APPOINT AN ADVISORY  
13 COMMITTEE TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN PROMULGATING REGULATIONS FOR  
14 THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO RECOMMEND TO THE  
15 LEGISLATURE WHETHER OR NOT THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY  
16 ESTABLISHED; TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT  
17 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN  
18 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND  
19 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2000 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE;  
20 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.