

By: Scott (17th), Barnett (92nd), Clarke,  
Coleman (29th), Davis, Holland, Huddleston,  
Hudson, Ketchings, Markham, Mayo, McCoy,  
Miles, Mitchell, Montgomery (15th), Morris,  
Peranich, Reynolds, Smith (27th), Thomas,  
Thornton, Wallace, Ward, Warren, Young

To: Universities and  
Colleges;  
Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 420

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE TO  
2 IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENT  
3 EDUCATION AND FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO SPECIFY CERTAIN MODELS  
4 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS; TO DIRECT THE  
5 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE TO ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS  
6 FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN APPLICANTS TO  
7 HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE PROGRAMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
8 EXTENSION SERVICE TO USE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO  
9 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE A REPORTING PROCESS ON EXISTING  
10 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE STATE; TO ESTABLISH AN IN-HOME  
11 PARENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. (1) The cooperative extension service, in its  
14 discretion, may offer funds for replication of voluntary parent  
15 education and family education programs that support and affirm  
16 the role of parents as the primary early childhood educator of  
17 their children for families with children aged prenatal through  
18 four (4) years, or until entering kindergarten, using personal  
19 visits. The parent education and family education programs must  
20 provide parents with opportunities to voluntarily obtain support  
21 and services that will enable them to provide optimum learning  
22 environments for their children, particularly from birth to the  
23 age of four (4) years, within the home or a selected site. These  
24 programs must use research-based, independently evaluated, proven  
25 research models demonstrating the following outcomes: (a)  
26 children with enhanced language, problem-solving and social  
27 development; (b) children entering school with increased readiness  
28 skills; (c) fewer children who are placed in special education or  
29 remedial classes; (d) lower incidences of child abuse and neglect;  
30 (e) higher scores on standardized reading and math tests in

31 elementary grades; (f) parents who are more confident in their  
32 parenting knowledge and skills; (g) parents who read more to their  
33 children; and (h) more parental involvement when children enter  
34 school. Program outcomes must be determined through a long-range  
35 evaluation that tracks participating children through the third  
36 grade.

37 (2) The cooperative extension service shall: (a) determine  
38 a process for interested school districts and other nonprofit  
39 entities in partnership with a school district to apply for grant  
40 funds in order to participate in the programs; (b) monitor program  
41 operations; (c) evaluate program effectiveness; and (d) develop  
42 rules for the administration of the program. In developing the  
43 process, the cooperative extension service must utilize, but is  
44 not limited to, representatives of the following categories:  
45 parents; local school districts' parent education programs staff;  
46 the Department of Human Services, Division of Family and  
47 Children's Services; Head Start; the State Department of  
48 Education; and USOE funded parental assistance programs. If an  
49 Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services, or  
50 similar organization, is established by act of the Legislature,  
51 the cooperative extension service may contract with such  
52 interagency council for the performance of its duties and  
53 responsibilities under this act.

54 (3) As part of the application process for participation in  
55 the program, applicants must demonstrate to the council that the  
56 program is a collaborative undertaking of various community  
57 organizations. School districts and other nonprofit entities in  
58 partnership with a school district applying for funds must develop  
59 a collaborative plan that includes, but is not limited to,  
60 participation of the local extension service, Head Start, health  
61 department, human services and other agencies as deemed  
62 appropriate and necessary. Programs seeking funds under this act  
63 must provide a twenty-five percent (25%) match. Programs must be  
64 housed in parent and family resource centers developed around  
65 existing Department of Human Services Families First criteria and  
66 the State Department of Education Parent and Family Center  
67 guidelines. Parent education programs shall have a broad-based

68 community advisory board including, but not limited to,  
69 representatives of the following categories: parents; local  
70 school districts' parent education programs staff; Department of  
71 Human Services, Division of Family and Children's Services; Head  
72 Start, private child care providers, State Department of  
73 Education; and State Department of Health.

74 (4) The cooperative extension service may accept any funds,  
75 public or private, made available to it for the program. The  
76 funds must be used to award grants to the participating parent  
77 education and family education programs for the support of such  
78 programs. A parent education and family education program may use  
79 any available funding to support the administration of the  
80 program.

81 (5) The cooperative extension service shall develop an  
82 annual reporting process to inform the Legislature, local school  
83 district personnel and the general public, as to all programs  
84 funded under this section, the following information:

85 (a) Number of children and families served;

86 (b) Number of parent educators and other personnel and  
87 their qualifications, training related to home visit programs and  
88 parent and family resource center establishment and experience  
89 levels;

90 (c) Annual program cost, with identification by name  
91 and amount of the source of funds for each program;

92 (d) Annual budget, administrative costs and other  
93 pertinent fiscal information;

94 (e) Annual salary and fringe benefit information for  
95 each employee in the program;

96 (f) Annual cost of materials, training and other  
97 instructional costs related to the program;

98 (g) Annual cost of program on a per-family basis;

99 (h) Other information as directed by the cooperative  
100 extension service;

101           (i) Advisory board members' names and titles; and  
102           (j) Analysis of the program's impact on Grades K-3 as  
103 indicated in an independent evaluation.

104           (6) The In-home Parent and Family Education Program Fund is  
105 established. Funds made available by the Legislature for the  
106 support and maintenance of voluntary parent education and family  
107 education programs through personal visits authorized under this  
108 act shall be deposited into the fund. Beginning in fiscal year  
109 2001, the cooperative extension service shall award grants for at  
110 least one (1) program in each Mississippi congressional district,  
111 not to exceed ten (10) programs statewide, with up to four (4)  
112 parent educators each in any Mississippi congressional district,  
113 and in subsequent fiscal years may award additional program grants  
114 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated  
115 therefor.

116           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
117 and after July 1, 2000.