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To: Universities and
Colleges;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 420

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 (4) The Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension
77 Service may accept any funds, public or private, made available to
78 it for the program. The funds must be used to award grants to the
79 participating parent education and family education programs for
80 the support of such programs. A parent education and family
81 education program may use any available funding to support the
82 administration of the program.

83 (5) The Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension
84 Service shall develop an annual reporting process to inform the
85 Legislature, local school district personnel and the general
86 public, as to all programs funded under this section, the
87 following information:

88 (a) Number of children and families served;

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

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

95 (d) Annual budget, administrative costs and other
96 pertinent fiscal information;

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

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

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

102 (h) Other information as directed by the Mississippi
103 State University Cooperative Extension Service;

104 (i) Advisory board members' names and titles; and

105 (j) Analysis of the program's impact on Grades K-3 as
106 indicated in an independent evaluation.

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

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