

By: Farris (By Request)

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2684

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/FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO SPECIFY
4 CERTAIN MODELS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS; TO
5 DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
6 SERVICE TO ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN
7 THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY
8 BOARD FOR THE PROGRAMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE EXTENSION SERVICE TO USE
9 AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE
10 A REPORTING PROCESS ON EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE
11 STATE; TO ESTABLISH AN IN-HOME PARENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION FUND;
12 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/family education programs that
17 support and affirm the role of parents as the primary early
18 childhood educator of their children for families with children
19 aged pre-natal through four (4) years, or until entering
20 kindergarten, using personal visits. The parent/family education
21 programs shall provide parents with opportunities to voluntarily
22 obtain support and services that will enable them to provide
23 optimum learning environments for their children, particularly
24 from birth to the age of four (4) years, within the home or
25 selected site. These programs shall use research-based,
26 independently-evaluated, proven research models showing the

27 following outcomes: (a) children with enhanced language,
28 problem-solving and social development; (b) children entering
29 school with increased readiness skills; (c) fewer children placed
30 in special education or remedial classes; (d) lower incidence of
31 child abuse and neglect; (e) higher scores on standardized reading
32 and math tests in elementary grades; (f) parents are more
33 confident in their parenting knowledge and skills; (g) parents who
34 read more to their children; and (h) more parental involvement
35 when children enter school. Program outcomes shall be determined
36 through a long-range evaluation that tracks participating children
37 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 shall
46 utilize, but not be 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. In the
51 event an Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood
52 Services, or similar organization, is established by act of the
53 Legislature, the Mississippi State University Cooperative
54 Extension Service may contract with such interagency council for
55 the performance of its 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 shall be
61 required to develop a collaborative plan that includes, but is not
62 limited to, participation of the local extension service, Head
63 Start, health department, human services and other agencies as
64 deemed by the advisory board in the local development plan.
65 Programs seeking funds under this act shall be required to provide
66 a twenty-five percent (25%) match. Programs shall be housed in
67 parent/family resource centers developed around existing DHS
68 Families First criteria and the State Department of Education
69 Parent/Family Center guidelines. Parent education programs shall
70 have a broad-based community advisory board including, but not
71 limited to, representatives of the following categories: parents,
72 local school districts' parent education programs staff,
73 DHS-Division of Family and Children's Services, Head Start/private
74 child care providers, State Department of Education and State
75 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 shall be used to award grants to
79 the participating parent/family education services programs for
80 the support of such programs. A parent/family education services
81 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:

87 (a) Number of children and families served;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

103 (j) Analysis of this program's impact on Grades K-3 as
104 indicated in an independent evaluation.

105 (6) The In-home Parent and Family Education Program Fund is
106 established. Funds made available by the Legislature for the
107 support and maintenance of voluntary parent and family education
108 program through personal visits authorized under this act shall be
109 deposited into the fund. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, the
110 Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service shall
111 award grants for not less than one (1) program in each Mississippi
112 congressional district and not more than ten (10) programs with up
113 to four (4) parent educators each in any Mississippi congressional

114 district, and in subsequent fiscal years may award additional
115 program grants subject to the availability of funds specifically
116 appropriated therefor.

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