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**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill NO. 2503**

**By Senator(s) Blackmon**

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

7        SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created a Department of  
8 Human Services Reorganization Study Committee which shall study  
9 the implementation of a freestanding agency of Mississippi  
10 government that would focus on and administer the following  
11 programs relating to children: (a) the functions of the Division  
12 of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services; (b) the  
13 functions of the Office for Children and Youth of the Department  
14 of Human Services; (c) the functions of the Division of Family and  
15 Children's Services presently administered by the Department of  
16 Human Services, including the foster care or foster home placement  
17 program, child adoption and child placement, and investigation of  
18 child abuse and neglect; (d) the administration of the school  
19 attendance officers enforcing the Mississippi Compulsory School  
20 Attendance Law presently administered by the district attorney  
21 offices; (e) the alternative school programs presently  
22 administered by the various school districts; (f) any program for  
23 children services which are provided by the Mississippi Department

24 of Mental Health; and (g) child care facility licensure programs  
25 presently administered by the Mississippi Department of Health; to  
26 ensure that the funds for approved services follow the child. The  
27 task force may study and make recommendations on any other program  
28 relating to child welfare or children's services, including but  
29 not limited to the youth court system in Mississippi, the child  
30 abuse and neglect laws of Mississippi, and the impact of state and  
31 federal welfare reform initiatives on child welfare services in  
32 Mississippi.

33 (2) The task force shall make a report of its findings and  
34 recommendations to the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and  
35 the Governor on October 1, 2001, for implementation in the 2002  
36 Regular Session.

37 (3) The task force shall be composed of the following: the  
38 Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Human  
39 Services; the State Health Officer; the Executive Director of the  
40 Mississippi Department of Mental Health; the Executive Director of  
41 the Division of Medicaid; two (2) youth court judges appointed by  
42 the Governor; two (2) representatives of child residential  
43 facilities appointed by the Governor; the Chairman of the Senate  
44 Public Health and Welfare Committee; the Chairman of the Senate  
45 Appropriations Committee; three (3) members of the Senate  
46 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; the Chairman of the House  
47 Public Health and Welfare Committee; the Chairman of the House  
48 Appropriations Committee; and three (3) members of the House  
49 appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Chairman of the Senate  
50 Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Chairman of the House  
51 Public Health and Welfare Committee shall serve as co-chairmen of  
52 the committee. In the event any member is unable to attend any  
53 meeting of the task force, such member shall not be authorized to

54 designate another person to attend or vote at such meeting.  
55 Within fifteen (15) days after passage of this section, on a day  
56 to be designated jointly by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor  
57 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the task force  
58 shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a vice  
59 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and  
60 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A  
61 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a  
62 quorum. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings,  
63 such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date  
64 on which a meeting is to be held.

65 (4) Any member of the task force who is also a state  
66 employee shall not be eligible to receive per diem compensation  
67 for attending meetings of the task force, but may be reimbursed in  
68 accordance with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for  
69 mileage and actual expense incurred in the performance of their  
70 duties, if authorized by vote, at a meeting of the task force,  
71 which action shall be recorded in the official minutes of said  
72 meeting. Legislative members of the task force shall be paid from  
73 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the  
74 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the  
75 Legislature is not in session.

76 (5) The task force is empowered to utilize staff already  
77 employed by the agencies affected by this section and any other  
78 assistance made available to it.

79 (6) Upon presentation of its report, the task force shall be  
80 dissolved.

81 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
82 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and**

inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1           AN ACT TO CREATE A DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
2 REORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
3 FREESTANDING AGENCY TO ADMINISTER CERTAIN SPECIFIC CHILDREN  
4 SERVICE PROGRAMS AND TO STUDY OTHER CHILD SERVICE-RELATED ISSUES;  
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.