

By: Representatives Formby, Cameron, Davis,
Jennings, Lott, Martinson, Robertson, Wells-
Smith

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1343

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A BEST FINANCIAL
2 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REVIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
3 TO IMPROVE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AND USE OF
4 RESOURCES AND TO IDENTIFY COST SAVINGS; TO DIRECT CERTAIN STATE
5 AGENCIES AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST WITH
6 THIS REVIEW; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT TO THE 2003 REGULAR SESSION
7 OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a Task Force to Conduct a
10 Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State Department
11 of Education in order to improve the management and use of
12 resources by Mississippi school districts and to identify cost
13 savings. The membership of the task force includes the following
14 nine (9) members: (a) the State Superintendent of Public
15 Education, who serves as chairman of the task force; (b) the
16 Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the
17 Senate Appropriations Committee and one (1) member of the Senate
18 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; (c) the Chairman of the
19 House of Representatives Education Committee, the Chairman of the
20 House Appropriations Committee and one (1) member of the House
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House; (d) one (1) local school
22 superintendent appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and (e) one
23 (1) representative of the business community appointed by the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Task Force to
25 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State
26 Department of Education shall study and submit to the Governor and
27 the Legislature, for review and adoption, proposed revisions to
28 the best financial management practices of the public school
29 system which, at a minimum, shall instill public confidence by:



30 addressing the State Department of Education's and the local
31 school districts' use of resources; identifying ways that the
32 department and the local districts can save funds; and improving
33 the department's and the local school districts' performance
34 accountability systems. To achieve these objectives, best
35 practices must be developed for, but need not be limited to, the
36 following areas:

37 (a) Management structures, including the size of the
38 department;

39 (b) Performance accountability;

40 (c) Efficient delivery of educational services,
41 including instructional materials;

42 (d) Teacher recruitment, the Mississippi Teacher
43 Center, the Critical Teacher Shortage Act, and employment of
44 recruited teachers by local school districts;

45 (e) Administrative and instructional technology;

46 (f) Personnel systems and benefits management;

47 (g) Facilities construction and maintenance;

48 (h) Vocational-technical programs;

49 (i) Teacher certification;

50 (j) The Mississippi Adequate Education funding formula;

51 (k) The number and size of school districts and
52 schools;

53 (l) Cost control systems and financial auditing of the
54 department and school districts.

55 In areas for which the department or local school districts
56 have not adopted the best practices, the task force may develop
57 revised practices, with input from a broad range of stakeholders.

58 (2) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
59 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the
60 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for
61 implementation in the 2003 Regular Session. The task force may
62 recommend continuation of its review until the 2004 Regular



63 Session if it is unable to complete its responsibilities before
64 the beginning of the 2003 Regular Session.

65 (3) The task force shall meet on the call of the chairman
66 and shall organize by selecting from its membership a vice
67 chairman, who also shall serve as secretary and shall be
68 responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A majority
69 of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum. All members
70 must be notified in writing of all meetings, and the notices must
71 be mailed at least five (5) days before the date on which a
72 meeting is to be held.

73 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid from
74 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the
75 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the
76 Legislature is not in session. Nonlegislative members of the task
77 force who are not state employees or local school district
78 employees shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses in
79 attending called meetings of the task force, to be paid from any
80 funds made available for such purpose by the Legislature.

81 (5) All agencies and divisions of agencies affected by this
82 study and review must cooperate with the Task Force to Conduct a
83 Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State Department
84 of Education, specifically the State Department of Education, the
85 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the
86 State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, in formulating and
87 preparing its recommendations.

88 (6) The task force may select a consultant or consultants to
89 conduct the study mandated under this section, subject to specific
90 appropriation therefor by the Legislature, and following the
91 applicable regulations of the Personal Service Contract Review
92 Board.

93 (7) The task force may utilize staff employed by the
94 agencies and school districts affected by this study and any other
95 assistance made available to the task force.



96 (8) Upon presentation of its final report, the task force
97 shall be dissolved.

98 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2002.

