

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Chaney, King

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2208

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 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 hereby created a Task Force to
10 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State
11 Department of Education to improve Mississippi school district
12 management and use of resources and identify cost savings. The
13 membership of the Task Force shall include the following nine (9)
14 members: (a) the State Superintendent of Education, who shall
15 serve as Chairman of the Task Force; (b) the Chairman of the
16 Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the Senate
17 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 study and submit to the Governor and the
27 Legislature for review and adoption proposed revisions to the best
28 financial management practices of the public school system which,
29 at a minimum, shall instill public confidence by addressing the



30 State Department of Education's and the local school districts'
31 use of resources; identifying ways that the department and the
32 local districts could save funds; and improving the department's
33 and the local school districts' performance accountability
34 systems. To achieve these objectives, best practices shall be
35 developed for, but need be limited to, the following areas:

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

38 (b) Performance accountability;

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

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

44 (e) Administrative and instructional technology;

45 (f) Personnel systems and benefits management;

46 (g) Facilities construction and maintenance;

47 (h) Vocational-technical programs;

48 (i) Teacher certification;

49 (j) The Mississippi Adequate Education Funding Formula;

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

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

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

57 (2) The Task Force shall make a report of its findings and
58 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the
59 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for
60 implementation in the 2003 Regular Session. The Task Force may
61 recommend continuation of its review until the 2004 Regular
62 Session if it is unable to complete its responsibilities.



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

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

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

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

92 (7) The Task Force is empowered to utilize staff already
93 employed by the agencies and school districts affected by this
94 study and any other assistance made available to it.



95 (8) Upon presentation of its final report, the Task Force
96 shall be dissolved.

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

