

By: Representatives Wells-Smith, Cameron, Chism, Davis, Ellington, Fillingane, Formby, Howell, Janus, Ketchings, Lott, Montgomery (74th), Moore (60th), Robinson (84th), Smith (59th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1397

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INSERT  
2 LANGUAGE THAT EXPLAINS THAT EVOLUTION IS A THEORY INTO CERTAIN  
3 PUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, the  
6 State Board of Education shall require that any textbook that  
7 includes the teaching of evolution in its contents shall have the  
8 following language inserted on the inside front cover of those  
9 textbooks:

10 "The word 'theory' has many meanings: systematically  
11 organized knowledge, abstract reasoning, a speculative idea or  
12 plan, or a systematic statement of principles. Scientific  
13 theories are based on both observations of the natural world and  
14 assumptions about the natural world. They are always subject to  
15 change in view of new and confirmed observations.

16 This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial theory  
17 some scientists present as a scientific explanation for the origin  
18 of living things. No one was present when life first appeared on  
19 earth. Therefore, any statement about life's origins should be  
20 considered a theory.

21 Evolution refers to the unproven belief that random,  
22 undirected forces produced living things. There are many  
23 unanswered questions about the origin of life that are not  
24 mentioned in your textbook, including: the major groups of  
25 animals suddenly appear in the fossil record (known as the  
26 Cambrian Explosion), no new major groups of other living things  
27 appeared in the fossil record, major groups of plants and animals



28 have no transitional forms in the fossil record, and all living  
29 things possess a complete and complex set of instructions for  
30 building a living body. Study hard and keep an open mind."

31       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
32 and after July 1, 2003.

