

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1178

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-151-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY;
3 TO REVISE THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL; TO AMEND
4 SECTIONS 37-151-19 AND 37-151-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
5 CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISION ABOVE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-151-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-151-17. (1) There is established the Council for
10 Education Technology, which shall be an advisory group attached to
11 the Board of the Department of Information Technology Services and
12 the State Board of Education. The council shall develop a master
13 plan for education technology.

14 (2) (a) The council shall consist of the following members
15 who shall serve as ex officio voting members:

16 (i) The Director of the Management Information
17 Services in the Department of Education;

18 (ii) The Director of Educational Technology in the
19 Department of Education;

20 (iii) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
21 Department of Information Technology Services;

22 (iv) The Executive Director of Mississippi Public
23 Broadcasting;

24 (v) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
25 Library Commission;

26 (vi) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
27 Association of School Superintendents;

28 (vii) The Executive Director of the State Board
29 for Community and Junior Colleges; and

30 (viii) The Commissioner of Higher Education * * *.

31 (b) The following five (5) members to be appointed no
32 later than August 1, 2004, as follows:

33 (i) One (1) member appointed by the State Board of
34 Education;

35 (ii) One (1) member appointed by the
36 Governor; * * *

37 (iii) One (1) member of the Mississippi
38 Educational Computing association appointed by the association;

39 (iv) One (1) member appointed by the Board of
40 Information Technology Services; and

41 (v) One (1) member appointed by the Executive
42 Director of the Mississippi Development Authority. All appointed
43 members of the council shall have a demonstrated knowledge in the
44 use, applications and specifications of education
45 technology * * *. A majority of the membership present at any
46 meeting shall constitute a quorum for the official conduct of
47 business.

48 (c) Members appointed to the council before August 1,
49 2004, shall be subject to reappointment or replacement by the
50 appointing entity.

51 (3) Members shall be appointed for four-year terms and may
52 be reappointed for one (1) additional four-year term. Members may
53 be reimbursed for mileage and actual and necessary expenses in
54 accordance with state law, and members who are not state officers
55 or employees shall receive per diem as authorized in Section
56 25-3-69.

57 (4) Immediately upon receiving notice of the appointment of
58 all members, the Executive Director of the Department of
59 Information and Technology Services shall call an organizational
60 meeting no later than September 15, 2004, and shall serve as

61 chairperson of council for the first year beginning with the date
62 of the organizational meeting. The council shall elect from among
63 the members * * * any other officers it deems necessary, and
64 define the duties of the officers. The council shall annually
65 elect a chairperson and no member shall serve more than two
66 consecutive years as chairperson.

67 (5) Meetings shall be held at least four (4) times per year,
68 or upon call of the chairperson, at a time and place designated by
69 the chairperson. The Department of Information and Technology
70 Services and the State Department of Education shall provide staff
71 support for the council.

72 (6) The duties and responsibilities of the council shall
73 include, but not be limited to, the following:

74 (a) Developing and updating annually a long-range
75 master plan for the efficient and equitable use of technology at
76 all levels from primary school through higher education, including
77 vocational and adult education. The plan shall focus on the
78 technology requirements of classroom instruction, literacy
79 laboratories, student record management, financial and
80 administrative management, distance learning and communications as
81 they relate to the state's performance goals for students. The
82 annual plan shall include specific and detailed cost projections
83 and analysis related to its implementation. The plan shall be
84 presented to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology
85 Services for approval and a copy shall be provided annually to the
86 Legislature no later than November 1, highlighting any cost
87 projections and a detailed budget and justifications for
88 implementation of the plan;

89 (b) Creating, overseeing and monitoring a well-planned
90 and efficient statewide network of technology services designed to
91 meet the educational and informational needs of the schools;

92 (c) Working with private enterprise to encourage the
93 development of technology products specifically designed to answer
94 Mississippi's educational needs;

95 (d) Encouraging an environment receptive to
96 technological progress in education throughout the state; * * *

97 (e) Working with other state entities to maximize the
98 use and benefit of the state's technology infrastructure, to avoid
99 duplication of public and private resources and to maximize the
100 purchasing ability of the state. When appropriate, shared
101 resources and competitive bidding shall be used; and

102 (f) Ensuring collaboration of all education entities to
103 maximize efficiency and cost savings and to enhance the
104 utilization of education technology as a means of impacting the
105 shortage of teachers.

106 All contracts, requests for proposals and bid awards shall be
107 subject to the approval of the Mississippi Department of
108 Information Technology Services.

109 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-151-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
110 amended as follows:

111 37-151-19. (1) The Council for Education Technology shall
112 develop and update annually the master plan for education
113 technology and submit the plan to the Board of the Department of
114 Information Technology Services, State Board of Education and the
115 Legislature. The annual master plan shall include detailed and
116 specific cost projections and a detailed budget for its
117 implementation. Implementation of each stage of the master plan
118 shall begin immediately upon approval of the Board of the
119 Department of Information Technology Services and the State Board
120 of Education and upon any appropriation of any necessary funding
121 required to carry out the objectives of the plan. The plan shall
122 outline the state's five-year activities related to purchasing,
123 developing and using technology to:

124 (a) Improve learning and teaching and the ability to
125 meet individual students' needs to increase student achievement;

126 (b) Improve curriculum delivery to help meet the needs
127 for educational equity across the state;

128 (c) Improve delivery of professional development;

129 (d) Improve the efficiency and productivity of
130 administrators; and

131 (e) Encourage development by the private sector and
132 acquisition by districts of technologies and applications
133 appropriate for education.

134 (2) The five-year plan, which shall be updated annually,
135 shall cover all aspects of education technology, including but not
136 limited to, its use in educational instruction and administration,
137 video and computer systems, software and hardware, multiple
138 delivery systems for satellite, microwave, cable, instructional
139 television fixed service, fiber optic and computer connections
140 products, video cameras and monitoring equipment for classrooms,
141 school buildings and school buses, the preparation of school
142 buildings for technological readiness, and the development of
143 staff necessary to implement the plan.

144 (3) Periodically, to develop and make specific
145 recommendations to the Board of the Department of Information
146 Technology Services and the State Board of Education for the
147 adoption of minimum specifications for the equipment to be
148 utilized in the education technology plan by school districts.
149 The Board of the Department of Information Technology Services and
150 the State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate said
151 minimum guidelines for the utilization of said education
152 technology equipment * * *.

153 (4) The integrated technology-based communications system
154 shall provide comprehensive, current, accurate and accessible
155 information relating to management, finance, operations,

156 instruction and pupil programs which are under the jurisdiction of
157 the Department of Education.

158 (5) To facilitate communication among teachers, parents,
159 students and prospective employers of students, and to provide
160 access to many vital technological services, the five-year plan
161 may include the installation of telephone lines in each classroom.

162 (6) In designing and implementing the five-year plan, the
163 council shall consider seeking the active participation of private
164 organizations whose knowledge and assistance will be useful.

165 (7) The council shall update as necessary, but not less than
166 annually, the plan developed under subsection (2) of this section
167 and report to the Legislature, Board of the Department of
168 Information Technology Services and the State Board of Education
169 at the completion of each implementation phase of the master plan.

170 * * *

171 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-151-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
172 amended as follows:

173 37-151-21. The council shall create a strategic plan for
174 distance learning in the state and submit it to the Legislature,
175 Board of the Department of Information Technology Services and the
176 State Board of Education by November 1, 2004. The plan shall set
177 forth the state's vision for developing a long-term and statewide
178 distance learning strategy. It shall include, but not be limited
179 to, definitions of the types of distance learning delivery
180 systems, an evaluation process for determining and certifying the
181 educational and cost-effectiveness of each type of delivery
182 system, comparisons of the various types of delivery systems and
183 recommendations for implementation. The plan shall include
184 specific cost projections and a detailed budget for all components
185 of its implementation.

186 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
187 and after its passage.