

By: Representatives Wells-Smith, Akins, Aldridge, Bentz, Chism, Davis, Denny, Fillingane, Formby, Gunn, Hamilton (6th), Howell, Lott, Mayhall, Moore, Nicholson, Reed, Reeves, Staples, Turner

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1288

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 2005-2006 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, 2004.