

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 508

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE TO
2 STUDY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)
3 EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS IN MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that:

6 (a) Educating tomorrow's scientists, technologists,
7 engineers and mathematicians is of critical importance to the
8 state's economy and that public policy is needed to address
9 effective science, technology, engineering and mathematics
10 education at all levels;

11 (b) Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
12 (STEM) education, in concert with scientific research,
13 entrepreneurship and business formation, is the foundation for
14 economic growth and development;

15 (c) There appears to be a logical educational continuum
16 with which the knowledge of science, technology, engineering and
17 mathematics is cumulative;

18 (d) Without a strong K-12 educational system, the
19 potential educational and economic impact of universities is
20 severely diminished, yet the strands of middle and high school
21 mathematics and science education do not proceed seamlessly into
22 college and university degree programs, and the cumulative
23 benefits of science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM)
24 are less than they could be:

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
26 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN,

27 That:

28 (1) There is established a Study Committee to Study Science,
29 Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education
30 Improvement and Competitiveness in Mississippi to study the
31 effects of (a) increasing the number and quality of math, science,
32 technology and pre-engineering teachers; (b) establishing and
33 coordinating partnerships that strengthen and promote the science,
34 technology, engineering and mathematics continuum; (c) encouraging
35 students to consider science, engineering and technology careers
36 and (d) building 21st Century educational infrastructure,
37 organizations and communities. The study committee shall make a
38 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature
39 before December 15, 2004.

40 (2) The study committee shall be composed of the following
41 twelve (12) members:

42 (a) Three (3) members of the House of Representatives
43 appointed by the Speaker of the House, one (1) of whom shall be
44 the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and one (1) of whom
45 shall be the Chairman of the Education Committee;

46 (b) Three (3) members of the Senate appointed by the
47 Lieutenant Governor, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the
48 Appropriations Committee and one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman
49 of the Education Committee;

50 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
51 Development Authority, or his designee;

52 (d) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
53 his designee;

54 (e) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his
55 designee;

56 (f) The Executive Director of the State Board for
57 Community and Junior Colleges, or his designee; and

58 (g) A representative of the American Society of
59 Mechanical Engineers appointed by the Governor.

60 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
61 passage of this resolution. Within fifteen (15) days thereafter,
62 on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the House and
63 the Lieutenant Governor, the study committee shall meet and
64 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and vice
65 chairman. The vice chairman shall serve as secretary and shall be
66 responsible for keeping all records of the study committee. A
67 majority of the members of the study committee shall constitute a
68 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
69 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
70 of the study committee present and voting is required. The
71 committee shall meet upon the call of the chairman, and all
72 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, and such
73 notices must be mailed at least five (5) days before the date on
74 which a meeting is to be held.

75 (4) Each legislative member of the committee shall be paid
76 from the contingent expense fund of his respective house per diem
77 in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of
78 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the
79 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.
80 However, no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance may
81 be paid for attending meetings of the committee while the
82 Legislature is in session, and no per diem, mileage allowance or
83 expense allowance may be paid without prior approval of the proper
84 committee in the member's respective house. No study committee
85 member may incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless
86 previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the study
87 committee, which action must be recorded in the official minutes
88 of the meeting.

89 (5) The study committee may employ consultants or staff and
90 may utilize clerical and legal staff employed by any state agency,
91 school district, political subdivision or municipality of the

92 state, and any other staff assistance made available to the
93 committee.

94 (6) Funding for the study committee may be provided from any
95 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature for the expenses
96 of the study committee. The study committee may accept money from
97 any source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its
98 duties under this resolution.

99 (7) Upon presentation of its report to the Legislature
100 before the 2005 Regular Session, the study committee shall be
101 dissolved.