

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1178: Council of Education Technology; revise membership of.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 State Board for  
27 Community and Junior Colleges; and

28                    (vii) The Commissioner of Higher Education \* \* \*.

29                    (b) The following eight (8) members to be appointed no  
30 later than August 1, 2004, as follows:

31                    (i) One (1) member appointed by the State Board of  
32 Education;

33                    (ii) Two (2) members appointed by the  
34 Governor; \* \* \*

35                    (iii) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant  
36 Governor;

37                    (iv) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of  
38 the House;

39                    (v) One (1) member of the Mississippi Educational  
40 Computing Association to be appointed by the State Superintendent  
41 of Public Education;

42                    (vi) One (1) member appointed by the Board of  
43 Information Technology Services; and

44                    (vii) One (1) member appointed by the Executive  
45 Director of the Mississippi Development Authority.

46                    All appointed members of the council shall have a  
47 demonstrated knowledge in the use, applications and specifications  
48 of education technology \* \* \*. A majority of the membership  
49 present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the official  
50 conduct of business.

51                    (c) Members appointed to the council before August 1,  
52 2004, shall be subject to reappointment or replacement by the  
53 appointing entity.

54                    (3) Members shall be appointed for four-year terms and may  
55 be reappointed for one (1) additional four-year term. Members may  
56 be reimbursed for mileage and actual and necessary expenses in  
57 accordance with state law, and members who are not state officers  
58 or employees shall receive per diem as authorized in Section  
59 25-3-69.

60 (4) Immediately upon receiving notice of the appointment of  
61 all members, the Executive Director of the Department of  
62 Information and Technology Services shall call an organizational  
63 meeting no later than September 15, 2004, and shall serve as  
64 chairperson of the council for the first year beginning with the  
65 date of the organizational meeting. The council shall elect from  
66 among the members \* \* \* any other officers it deems necessary, and  
67 define the duties of the officers. The council shall annually  
68 elect a chairperson and no member shall serve more than two (2)  
69 consecutive years as chairperson.

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

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

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

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

95 (c) Working with private enterprise to encourage the  
96 development of technology products specifically designed to answer  
97 Mississippi's educational needs;

98 (d) Encouraging an environment receptive to  
99 technological progress in education throughout the state; \* \* \*

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

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

109 All contracts, requests for proposals and bid awards shall be  
110 subject to the approval of the Mississippi Department of  
111 Information Technology Services.

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

114 37-151-19. (1) The Council for Education Technology shall  
115 develop and update annually the master plan for education  
116 technology and submit the plan to the Board of the Department of  
117 Information Technology Services, State Board of Education and the  
118 Legislature. The annual master plan shall include detailed and  
119 specific cost projections and a detailed budget for its  
120 implementation. Implementation of each stage of the master plan  
121 shall begin immediately upon approval of the Board of the  
122 Department of Information Technology Services and the State Board  
123 of Education, and upon any appropriation of any necessary funding

124 required to carry out the objectives of the plan. The plan shall  
125 outline the state's five-year activities related to purchasing,  
126 developing and using technology to:

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

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

131 (c) Improve delivery of professional development;

132 (d) Improve the efficiency and productivity of  
133 administrators; and

134 (e) Encourage development by the private sector and  
135 acquisition by districts of technologies and applications  
136 appropriate for education.

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

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

156 (4) The integrated technology-based communications system  
157 shall provide comprehensive, current, accurate and accessible  
158 information relating to management, finance, operations,  
159 instruction and pupil programs which are under the jurisdiction of  
160 the Department of Education.

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

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

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

173 \* \* \*

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

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

187 include specific cost projections and a detailed budget for all  
188 components of its implementation.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Randy Pierce

X (SIGNED)  
Mike Chaney

X (SIGNED)  
Billy Broomfield

X (SIGNED)  
Tom King

X (SIGNED)  
David W. Myers

X (SIGNED)  
J. P. Wilemon, Jr.