

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1242

1 AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; TO AMEND  
2 SECTION 37-21-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE FROM THE  
3 DUTIES OF THE INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
4 SERVICES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADVISING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS  
5 TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL,  
6 TO AUTHORIZE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DIRECT STATE ENTITIES  
7 HAVING EARLY CHILDHOOD RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE COORDINATED THROUGH  
8 THE DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES WITHIN THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND TO REQUIRE THE ADVISORY  
10 COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE STATE'S  
11 TIERED REIMBURSEMENT STRUCTURE FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES; TO BRING  
12 FORWARD SECTIONS 37-21-51 AND 37-21-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
13 WHICH RELATE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
14 SERVICES INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL, FOR PURPOSES OF  
15 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-21-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
18 amended as follows:

19 37-21-55. (1) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early  
20 Childhood Services is created to develop and make recommendations  
21 to the Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council  
22 established under Section 37-21-53 as deemed necessary to  
23 implement the council's responsibilities relating to all programs  
24 serving preschool children and their families in Mississippi.

25 (2) The membership of the Interagency Advisory Committee for  
26 Early Childhood Services shall be as follows:

27 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education, Public Health  
28 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their Senate  
29 designees;

30 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education, Public Health  
31 and Human Services and Appropriations Committees, or their House  
32 designees;

33 (c) A representative of the Governor;

- 34                   (d) A representative of the State Department of  
35 Education;
- 36                   (e) A representative of the State Department of Health;
- 37                   (f) A representative of the Department of Human  
38 Services;
- 39                   (g) A representative of the State Department of Mental  
40 Health;
- 41                   (h) A representative of the State Department of  
42 Rehabilitation Services;
- 43                   (i) The following representatives of the early  
44 childhood profession:
- 45                         (i) The President of the Mississippi Head Start  
46 Association;
- 47                         (ii) A representative from a regulated family  
48 child care home network appointed by the Governor;
- 49                         (iii) A representative from a licensed child care  
50 center appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 51                         (iv) A representative from a public school  
52 prekindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 53                         (v) A representative from a private school  
54 prekindergarten program appointed by the Governor;
- 55                         (vi) A representative from a half-day church  
56 sponsored prekindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the  
57 House;
- 58                         (vii) A representative from a university or  
59 college early childhood program appointed by the President of the  
60 Senate;
- 61                         (viii) A representative of a tribal early  
62 childhood program appointed by the Governor;
- 63                         (ix) A representative of an early childhood  
64 professional organization appointed by the President of the  
65 Senate;

66                   (x) A representative of an advocacy organization  
67 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

68                   (xi) A representative of a community or junior  
69 college early childhood program appointed by the Governor;

70                   (j) A parent of a preschool-age child appointed by the  
71 Governor;

72                   (k) A parent of a preschool-age child with special  
73 needs appointed by the Speaker of the House;

74                   (l) A representative of the cooperative extension  
75 services appointed by the President of the Senate;

76                   (m) A physician who is a member of the Mississippi  
77 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, appointed by the  
78 Director of the University Medical Center;

79                   (n) The Director of the Mississippi Public Education  
80 Forum, or his designee; and

81                   (o) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Economic  
82 Council, or his designee.

83           To the extent possible, any representative of a state agency  
84 designated to serve on the Interagency Advisory Committee shall be  
85 the same individual designated to assist the Interagency  
86 Coordinating Council in performing its duties and  
87 responsibilities.

88           (3) The advisory committee shall meet upon call of the Early  
89 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council before August  
90 1, 2000, and the council shall appoint a chairman from among the  
91 membership of the advisory committee. The chairman shall serve  
92 for a one-year term and may be reappointed for subsequent terms.  
93 The advisory committee shall adopt internal organizational  
94 procedures necessary for efficient operation of the advisory  
95 committee and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific  
96 programs and activities. Advisory committee procedures must  
97 include duties of officers, a process for selecting officers,  
98 duties of subcommittees, quorum requirements for conducting

99 business and policies for any staff. The members of the Early  
100 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council shall  
101 designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the  
102 advisory committee in performing its duties and responsibilities.  
103 The advisory committee shall meet and conduct business at least  
104 quarterly. Quarterly meetings of the advisory committee shall be  
105 open to the public, and opportunity for public comment must be  
106 made available at each meeting. The staff of the advisory  
107 committee shall notify all persons who request such notice as to  
108 the date, time and place of each meeting.

109 (4) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood  
110 Services, in addition to responsibilities assigned by the Early  
111 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council, shall perform  
112 each of the following duties:

113 (a) Assist in the implementation of the study conducted  
114 by the Task Force on the Development and Implementation of  
115 Comprehensive Early Childhood Services in Mississippi established  
116 under Laws, 1999, Chapter 584;

117 (b) Identify services to children which impact early  
118 childhood development and education;

119 (c) Identify and recommend methods to facilitate  
120 interagency coordination of service programs for preschool  
121 children; and

122 (d) Serve as a forum for information exchange regarding  
123 recommendations and priorities in early childhood development and  
124 education. \* \* \*

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126 (5) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood  
127 Services, with the consent of a majority of its members, may  
128 direct any state entity with early childhood responsibilities to  
129 be coordinated through the Division of Family and Children's  
130 Services within the Department of Human Services for the purposes

131 of aligning the various educational efforts being conducted by  
132 different state entities in the State of Mississippi.

133 (6) Beginning on July 1, 2006, the Interagency Advisory  
134 Committee for Early Childhood Services shall meet at the direction  
135 of the Director of the Division of Family and Children's Services  
136 to assess the appropriate criteria for determining and  
137 implementing the educational components of the state's tiered  
138 reimbursement structure for child care facilities.

139 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
140 brought forward as follows:

141 37-21-51. (1) As used in Sections 37-21-51 through  
142 37-21-55, the term "preschool children" means any children who  
143 have not entered kindergarten.

144 (2) To ensure that all children have access to quality early  
145 childhood education and development services, the Legislature  
146 finds and declares the following:

147 (a) Parents have the primary duty to educate their  
148 young preschool children;

149 (b) The State of Mississippi can assist and educate  
150 parents in their role as the primary caregivers and educators of  
151 young preschool children; and

152 (c) There is a need to explore innovative approaches  
153 and strategies for aiding parents and families in the education  
154 and development of young preschool children.

155 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-21-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
156 brought forward as follows:

157 37-21-53. (1) The Early Childhood Services Interagency  
158 Coordinating Council is created to ensure coordination among the  
159 various agencies and programs serving preschool children in order  
160 to support school district's efforts to achieve the goal of  
161 readiness to start school, to facilitate communication,  
162 cooperation and maximum use of resources and to promote high

163 standards for all programs serving preschool children and their  
164 families in Mississippi.

165 (2) The membership of the Early Childhood Services  
166 Interagency Coordinating Council shall be as follows:

167 (a) The State Superintendent of Public Education;

168 (b) The Executive Director of the State Department of  
169 Health;

170 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of Human  
171 Services;

172 (d) The Executive Director of the State Department of  
173 Mental Health;

174 (e) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid,  
175 Office of the Governor;

176 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of  
177 Rehabilitation Services;

178 (g) The Commissioner of Higher Education;

179 (h) The Executive Director of the State Board for  
180 Community and Junior Colleges; and

181 (i) The Executive Director of Mississippi Educational  
182 Television.

183 (3) The council shall meet upon call of the Governor before  
184 August 1, 2000, and shall organize for business by selecting a  
185 chairman, who shall serve for a one-year term and may be selected  
186 for subsequent terms. The council shall adopt internal  
187 organizational procedures necessary for efficient operation of the  
188 council. Council procedures must include duties of officers, a  
189 process for selecting officers, quorum requirements for conducting  
190 business and policies for any council staff. Each member of the  
191 council shall designate necessary staff of their departments to  
192 assist the council in performing its duties and responsibilities.  
193 The council shall meet and conduct business at least twice  
194 annually. Meetings of the council must be open to the public, and  
195 opportunity for public comment must be made available at each

196 meeting. The chairman of the council shall notify all persons who  
197 request such notice as to the date, time and place of each  
198 meeting.

199 (4) The Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating  
200 Council shall perform each of the following duties:

201 (a) Serve as interagency coordinating council for the  
202 various agencies and public and private programs serving preschool  
203 children and their families in the State of Mississippi;

204 (b) Advise the State Board of Health, State Board of  
205 Education, Department of Human Services, State Department of  
206 Mental Health, Division of Medicaid, State Department of  
207 Rehabilitation Services and any other appropriate agency of  
208 standards, rules, rule revisions, agency guidelines and  
209 administration affecting child care facilities, prekindergarten  
210 programs, family training programs and other programs and services  
211 for preschool children and families;

212 (c) Collect, compile and distribute data relating to  
213 all programs and services for preschool children and families,  
214 including, but not limited to, an inventory of the programs and  
215 services available in each county of the state, and identify and  
216 make recommendations with regard to program areas for which an  
217 unfulfilled need exists within the state for accurate and  
218 accessible information;

219 (d) Review and analyze spending priorities for each  
220 state agency that utilizes state or federal funds in the  
221 administration or provision of programs and services for preschool  
222 children and make recommendations thereon to the Legislative  
223 Budget Committee and the Governor;

224 (e) Publish annually, before November 1, a  
225 comprehensive report on the status of all programs and services  
226 for preschool children in Mississippi and distribute the report to  
227 the Governor, the Legislature and local school districts and make

228 the report available to the general public, using the following  
229 criteria:

- 230 (i) Program name and location;
- 231 (ii) Dates of operation;
- 232 (iii) Services provided;
- 233 (iv) Target population and number served;
- 234 (v) Eligibility requirements;
- 235 (vi) Funding sources;
- 236 (vii) Amount of funding per unit;
- 237 (viii) Annual cost;
- 238 (ix) Evaluation type and results; and
- 239 (x) The state agency administering the program.

240 (f) Receive and consider recommendations of the  
241 Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood Services  
242 established in Section 37-21-55; and

243 (g) Apply for, receive and administer funds for  
244 administration, research, pilot, planning and evaluation of all  
245 programs serving preschool children and their families.

246 (5) If any agency represented on the Early Childhood  
247 Services Interagency Coordinating Council includes a request for  
248 funding for the support of the council in the agency's annual  
249 budget request presented to the Legislative Budget Committee, the  
250 Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council shall be  
251 abolished, effective on the date that the agency presents its  
252 budget request.

253 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
254 and after July 1, 2006.