

By: Representative Brown

To: Sel Cmte on Hurricane Recovery

HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT
2 AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY
3 OF THE PERFORMANCE OF FIRST RESPONDERS TO HURRICANE KATRINA; TO
4 ESTABLISH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETING A
5 FINAL REPORT OF THE STUDY TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares the following:

9 (a) On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated
10 the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing loss of life and property;

11 (b) During and after the disaster, many persons became
12 concerned about the quality and sufficiency of the emergency
13 response provided by instrumentalities of the federal, state and
14 local governments, as well as private entities that responded to
15 the disaster; and

16 (c) The Legislature believes a neutral and
17 comprehensive review of the response to the disaster must be
18 conducted to assist in preparing for future disasters.

19 **SECTION 2.** (1) The John C. Stennis Institute of Government
20 at Mississippi State University shall conduct a comprehensive
21 study of the response of all first responders to the devastation
22 caused by Hurricane Katrina. This study shall consist of the
23 following components:

24 (a) A focused review of the interoperability of
25 communications systems used by first responders, the adequacy of
26 preparations for the provision of care made by health care
27 facilities, and the integration of emergency and recovery planning
28 by public and private entities involved in emergency response and
29 planning;

30 (b) Any other matter or condition that may have been a
31 significant cause that affected the quality and sufficiency of
32 emergency responders' performance in the wake of Hurricane
33 Katrina;

34 (c) A full and complete analysis of all issues related
35 to the response to Hurricane Katrina and a plan of recommended
36 legislative and administrative action, organized by highest to
37 lowest priority, necessary to correct deficiencies cited in the
38 report; and

39 (d) A statement of fiscal impact showing the costs to
40 state and local government associated with the implementation of
41 any recommendations.

42 (2) All agencies of state and local government, and all
43 not-for-profit corporations that receive funds appropriated by the
44 Legislature or any local governing authority for any purpose
45 through grant or contract with any state agency or local governing
46 authority, shall fully cooperate with the efforts of the institute
47 in preparing its report.

48 **SECTION 3.** (1) The John C. Stennis Institute of Government
49 at Mississippi State University shall prepare a final report of
50 the study required by this act to the Legislature to be delivered
51 no later than December 31, 2006. During the course of the report,
52 the institute shall report to the Joint Committee on Performance
53 Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) on the progress it has
54 achieved in meeting the requirements of this act. The first
55 report shall be delivered no later than July 1, 2006, and shall
56 detail the institute's progress in preparing a comprehensive plan
57 for accomplishing the purposes of this act. The second report
58 shall be made to PEER no later than October 31, 2006, detailing
59 the progress the institute has made toward implementing its plan.

60 (2) Reports required in subsection (1) of this section may
61 be made in a manner mutually acceptable to the institute and PEER.

62 (3) The Legislature shall appropriate funds to Mississippi
63 State University for fiscal year 2007 to defray the costs of
64 conducting this report.

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