

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Horhn, Williamson,  
Harden, Jordan, Frazier, Jackson (32nd),  
Butler, Jackson (11th), Turner, Walls

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2718

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAKE  
2 CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION A PART OF THE K-12  
3 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE  
4 APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR GRADE LEVEL CLASSROOM LEARNING; TO  
5 ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION COMMISSION TO  
6 INVENTORY CIVIL RIGHTS EXHIBITS AND RESOURCES AND COORDINATE CIVIL  
7 RIGHTS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Understanding the important role the Civil Rights  
11 Movement had on the State of Mississippi and understanding the  
12 importance of teaching Mississippi's children all of our history,  
13 it is the goal of this Legislature to provide meaningful support  
14 to this most important endeavor. Mississippi's central role in  
15 the civil rights struggle needs to be formalized and taught as a  
16 beacon of hope for all of our citizens.

17 **SECTION 2.** The State Board of Education may make civil  
18 rights and human rights education a part of the K-12 curriculum of  
19 instruction in Mississippi public schools. The State Department  
20 of Education shall work with the Mississippi Civil Rights  
21 Education Commission established in Section 3 in implementing  
22 these five (5) guidelines: (a) provide assistance and advice to  
23 K-12 schools with respect to the Civil Rights Movement and human  
24 rights education and awareness programs; (b) survey and catalog  
25 the extent to which civil rights and human rights education exists  
26 in state curricula; (c) inventory civil rights memorials, exhibits  
27 and resources that could be used in classrooms and other  
28 educational programs; (d) compile a list of volunteers who are  
29 willing to share their knowledge and experiences concerning the  
30 struggle for civil rights; (e) prepare reports for the Governor

31 and the State Legislature on the inclusion of civil rights studies  
32 into the educational systems of the state.

33       **SECTION 3.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Civil  
34 Rights Education Commission. The commission shall be assigned to  
35 the Office of the Secretary of State for administrative purposes  
36 only. The commission shall provide or assist education officials  
37 and other organizations with information, coordination and  
38 modification of courses or programs that include the Civil Rights  
39 Movement, and will carry out the specific responsibilities set  
40 forth in Section 2. In completing this task, the commission may  
41 act as a liaison with various bodies, including the United States  
42 Congress, the State Legislature, Teaching for Change, the William  
43 Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, as well as other  
44 national and international agencies. The commission shall consist  
45 of no more than fifteen (15) members, eleven (11) positions of  
46 which will be voluntary, to serve with a term of three (3) years  
47 on a rotating basis. These positions will be filled by  
48 application submitted to a joint committee formed by the William  
49 Winter Institute at the University of Mississippi, Tougaloo  
50 College, the Oral History Project at the University of Southern  
51 Mississippi and Jackson State University. Each of these four (4)  
52 entities shall remain permanent members of this commission, with  
53 representatives to be appointed by the President or Chancellor of  
54 the appropriate institution.

55       (2) The members of the commission shall be residents of this  
56 state and shall be appointed with due regard for broad geographic  
57 representation.

58       (3) The commission shall have a chairperson who shall be  
59 designated by the State Superintendent of Education from the  
60 commission membership for a term of four (4) years and eight (8)  
61 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
62 transaction of the business of the commission.

63           (4) The Mississippi Commission on Civil Rights Education  
64 shall adopt rules and regulations and set standards and policies  
65 for the organization, operation, management, budgeting and  
66 programs of the commission.

67           (5) The commission may apply for and receive gifts, grants  
68 and donations from any public or private sources, including  
69 federal and private foundation grants. Members of the commission  
70 may not be compensated for the performance of their duties except  
71 from nonstate funds that are specifically available therefor.

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