

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1002

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

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

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

16 37-21-55. (1) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early
17 Childhood Services is created to develop and make recommendations
18 to the Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council
19 established under Section 37-21-53 as deemed necessary to
20 implement the council's responsibilities relating to all programs
21 serving preschool children and their families in Mississippi.

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

24 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education, Public Health
25 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their Senate
26 designees;

27 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education, Public Health
28 and Human Services and Appropriations Committees, or their House
29 designees;

30 (c) A representative of the Governor;

31 (d) A representative of the State Department of
32 Education;

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

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

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

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

71 (l) A representative of the cooperative extension
72 services appointed by the President of the Senate;

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

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

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

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

85 (3) The advisory committee shall meet upon call of the Early
86 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council before August
87 1, 2000, and the council shall appoint a chairman from among the
88 membership of the advisory committee. The chairman shall serve
89 for a one-year term and may be reappointed for subsequent terms.
90 The advisory committee shall adopt internal organizational
91 procedures necessary for efficient operation of the advisory
92 committee and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific
93 programs and activities. Advisory committee procedures must
94 include duties of officers, a process for selecting officers,
95 duties of subcommittees, quorum requirements for conducting
96 business and policies for any staff. The members of the Early
97 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council shall

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

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

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

114 (b) Identify services to children which impact early
115 childhood development and education;

116 (c) Identify and recommend methods to facilitate
117 interagency coordination of service programs for preschool
118 children; and

119 (d) Serve as a forum for information exchange regarding
120 recommendations and priorities in early childhood development and
121 education.

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123 (5) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood
124 Services, with the consent of a majority of its members, may
125 direct any entity with early childhood responsibilities which
126 receives state or federal funds through a state agency to be
127 coordinated through the Division of Family and Children's Services
128 within the Department of Human Services for the purposes of
129 aligning the various educational efforts being conducted by those
130 different entities in the State of Mississippi.

131 (6) Beginning on July 1, 2007, the Interagency Advisory
132 Committee for Early Childhood Services shall meet at the direction
133 of the Director of the Division of Family and Children's Services
134 to assess the appropriate criteria for determining and
135 implementing the educational components of the state's tiered
136 reimbursement structure for child care facilities.

137 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
138 and after July 1, 2007.