

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2170

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE
2 SELECTION AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS IN
3 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT TO THE 2008 REGULAR SESSION
4 OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created a task force to
7 conduct a study of the selection and governance structure of local
8 school boards in Mississippi. The purpose of such study is to
9 review current statutory provisions for the selection of school
10 board members and the forms of governance of school boards and to
11 consider optional methods of selection, composition and authority
12 of school boards in Mississippi which may enhance and promote more
13 efficient operations of school systems. The membership of the
14 task force shall include the following thirteen (13) members:

15 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, who
16 will serve as temporary chairman of the task force;

17 (b) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the
18 Lieutenant Governor;

19 (c) The Chairman of the House of Representatives
20 Education Committee;

21 (d) One (1) member of the House appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House;

23 (e) One (1) local school board member appointed by the
24 Mississippi School Boards Association, serving as an elected
25 member of a local board of education;

26 (f) One (1) local school board member appointed by the
27 Mississippi School Boards Association, serving as an appointed
28 member of a local board of education;

29 (g) One (1) representative of the business community
30 appointed by the Mississippi Economic Council;

31 (h) One (1) representative from the Public Education
32 Forum;

33 (i) One (1) local elected superintendent of education
34 appointed by the Mississippi Association of School
35 Superintendents;

36 (j) One (1) local appointed superintendent of education
37 appointed by the Mississippi Association of School
38 Superintendents;

39 (k) One (1) member of the general public appointed by
40 the Lieutenant Governor;

41 (l) One (1) member of the general public appointed by
42 the Speaker of the House; and

43 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
44 Development Authority.

45 (2) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
46 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the
47 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for
48 implementation in the 2008 Regular Session. The task force may
49 recommend continuation of its review until the 2009 Regular
50 Session if it is unable to complete its responsibilities.

51 (3) The temporary chairman of the task force shall call a
52 meeting within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this bill
53 and the task force shall elect a chairman from its membership, in
54 addition to such other officers as it may deem appropriate. A
55 majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a
56 quorum. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings,
57 such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date
58 on which a meeting is to be held.

59 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid from
60 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the
61 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the

62 Legislature is not in session. Nonlegislative members of the task
63 force who are not state employees or local school district
64 employees shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses in
65 attending called meetings of the task force, to be paid from any
66 funds made available for such purpose by the Legislature.

67 (5) All agencies and divisions of agencies affected by this
68 study and review are hereby directed to cooperate with the task
69 force in formulating and preparing its recommendations.

70 (6) The task force is empowered to select a consultant or
71 consultants to conduct the study mandated under this section,
72 subject to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature, and
73 following the applicable regulations of the Personal Service
74 Contract Review Board.

75 (7) The task force is empowered to utilize staff already
76 employed by the agencies and school districts affected by this
77 study and any other assistance made available to it.

78 (8) Upon presentation of its final report, the task force
79 shall be dissolved.

80 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
81 and after its passage.