

By: Representatives Buck (5th), Brown,
Scott, Clark, Espy

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1071
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL TO REQUIRE
2 THE COUNCIL TO WORK TOWARD INCREASING THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
3 AND SKILL LEVELS OF THE STATE'S WORKING-AGE POPULATION BENCHMARK
4 TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE BY 2025; TO REQUIRE THE COUNCIL TO PREPARE
5 AN ANNUAL STATE REPORT CARD AND MAKE THE REPORT AVAILABLE IN
6 CERTAIN MEDIUMS AND AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

8 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature and the
9 expectation of the Board of Trustees for State Institutions of
10 Higher Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior
11 Colleges, as well as each institution of higher learning and
12 community and junior college in the state that all students in
13 those institutions receive a quality education and graduate from
14 those institutions; and

15 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature, during the 2009 Regular
16 Session, established the Graduation Rate Task Force to assist the
17 Legislature in shaping public policy to improve student outcomes
18 and educational opportunities for all students in the institutions
19 of higher learning by focusing on the means and methods to improve
20 graduation rates and numbers; and

21 WHEREAS, the Graduation Rate Task Force completed its work on
22 December 16, 2009, and submitted its report, recommending the need
23 to increase the educational attainment and skill levels of the
24 state's working-age population benchmark to the national average
25 by 2025 to prepare a globally competitive workforce, enhance the
26 state's future economy, and improve the quality of life for the
27 state's citizens; and

28 WHEREAS, the Graduation Rate Task Force further recommended
29 establishing the Education Attainment Council to sustain attention



30 by leading this agenda in partnership with the governing and
31 coordinating roles of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
32 of Higher Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior
33 Colleges; and

34 WHEREAS, the Graduation Rate Task Force identified several
35 key components of this agenda to include: the alignment of K-12
36 and higher education expectations for college-level learning;
37 teacher preparation; reviewing admissions requirements and
38 developmental education; implementation of a longitudinal data
39 system; revising and strengthening transfer and articulation
40 processes and policies; creating incentives for regional
41 collaboration to ensure more students get through the system to
42 higher levels of achievement; improving academic advisement at
43 state institutions of higher learning; redesigning student
44 financial aid; aligning financing policy with these long-term
45 goals; and improving student recruitment, retention, persistence
46 and completion; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

48 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created an Education Achievement
49 Council whose purpose is to sustain attention to the state's goal
50 of increasing the educational attainment and skill levels of the
51 state's working-age population benchmark to the national average
52 by 2025.

53 (2) The Education Achievement Council shall consist of
54 twenty-three (23) members:

55 (a) The Chairmen of the House and Senate Universities
56 and Colleges Committees;

57 (b) The Chairmen of the House and Senate Education
58 Committees;

59 (c) A representative of the Governor's office appointed
60 by the Governor;

61 (d) Two (2) members of the Board of Trustees of State
62 Institutions of Higher Learning;



63 (e) The Chairman of the State Board of Education, or
64 his designee;

65 (f) The Chairman and one (1) member of the State Board
66 for Community and Junior Colleges, or his designee;

67 (g) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
68 his designee;

69 (h) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his
70 designee;

71 (i) The Executive Director of the State Board for
72 Community and Junior Colleges, or his designee;

73 (j) Three (3) presidents of state institutions of
74 higher learning appointed by the Board of Trustees of State
75 Institutions of Higher Learning, one (1) of which must be from a
76 historically black institution of higher learning;

77 (k) Three (3) community and junior college presidents
78 appointed by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges;

79 (l) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
80 Department of Mental Health, or his designee;

81 (m) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
82 Mississippi Economic Council; and

83 (n) The Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriation
84 Committees, or their designees.

85 (3) The Education Achievement Council shall work
86 collaboratively with the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
87 of Higher Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior
88 Colleges to achieve the state's goal, and shall not displace any
89 governing or coordinating responsibilities.

90 (4) The Education Achievement Council shall:

91 (a) Establish the education achievement goals for the
92 state;

93 (b) Develop and prescribe appropriate planning
94 processes;



95 (c) Establish appropriate benchmarks to measure
96 progress, including degrees awarded per one hundred (100)
97 full-time equivalent (FTE) students calculated using completed
98 credit hours; conduct the necessary studies and analysis; and

99 (d) Contract for any professional services that it
100 deems necessary to complete its work.

101 (5) The Education Achievement Council shall monitor and
102 report on the state's progress toward these education achievement
103 goals by preparing an annual state report card compiled from the
104 annual reports prepared and submitted by each state institution of
105 higher learning and community and junior college in the state.
106 The state's annual report shall be made available on the Education
107 Achievement Council Web site, as well as the Web sites of the
108 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the
109 State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

110 (6) Each state institution of higher learning and community
111 and junior college shall be required to develop and publish an
112 annual report as prescribed by the Education Achievement Council.
113 By November 1 of each year, as prescribed by the Education
114 Achievement Council, each institution's annual report shall be
115 published in a newspaper having general circulation in the county
116 and posted on the institution's Web site in printable form. The
117 public notice shall include information on the report's
118 availability on the institution's Web site, with the Web site
119 address, and the locations where a copy of the report may be
120 obtained.

121 (7) Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this
122 act, the Education Achievement Council shall meet and organize by
123 selecting from its membership a chairman, vice chairman and
124 secretary each for a one-year term of office. A majority of the
125 membership will constitute a quorum. In the selection of its
126 officers and the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an
127 affirmative majority vote shall be required. All members must



128 be notified in writing of all meetings at least five (5) days
129 before the date on which a meeting is scheduled.

130 (8) The Legislature may appropriate funds to the Board of
131 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the
132 administrative, contractual costs, travel and other expenses of
133 the Education Achievement Council.

134 (9) Members of the Education Achievement Council who are not
135 legislators, state officials or state employees may be compensated
136 at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-41 for mileage and
137 actual expense incurred in the performance of their duties.
138 Legislative members of the Education Achievement Council may be
139 paid from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses,
140 but only with the specific approval of the Senate Rules Committee
141 or House Management Committee; however, no per diem or expense is
142 authorized for attending meetings of the Education Achievement
143 Council when the Legislature is in session. Nonlegislative
144 members may be paid from any funds made available for that
145 purpose.

146 (10) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his designee,
147 shall serve as the principal staff to support the Education
148 Achievement Council. The Commissioner of Higher Education and the
149 Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior
150 Colleges shall provide appropriate staff to support the work of
151 the Education Achievement Council.

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

