

By: Representative Dickson

To: Select Committee on  
PovertyCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 383

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY  
2 CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT SHALL  
3 IDENTIFY METHODS TO INCREASE STUDENT PREPAREDNESS FOR SCHOOL AT  
4 THE KINDERGARTEN LEVEL; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAKEUP OF THE BOARD OF  
5 TRUSTEES FOR THE FOUNDATION; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO MATCH FUNDS  
6 APPROPRIATED BY THE STATE WITH PRIVATE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
7 PROVIDING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE  
8 TO ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
9 FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE  
10 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MAKE GRANTS TO THE  
11 MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR  
12 PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
13 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MAKE  
14 GRANTS TO A PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO AID THE MISSISSIPPI  
15 FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE  
16 MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TO ADOPT A  
17 SYSTEM OF EVALUATION AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THE  
18 RESULTS OF SUCH EVALUATION; TO REQUIRE ALL AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS,  
19 INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE THAT PROVIDE  
20 PROGRAMS OR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN THIS STATE TO CREATE,  
21 ANNUALLY, AN ITEMIZED LIST OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED  
22 TO CHILDREN SO THAT THE LIST CAN BE UTILIZED BY THE FOUNDATION; TO  
23 REQUIRE THAT THE LIST CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMS AND  
24 SERVICES, A RESOURCE MAPPING OF ALL FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS  
25 RECEIVED, COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, THE  
26 NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND ANY  
27 PERFORMANCE MEASURES USED TO ASSESS THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; TO  
28 PROVIDE THAT THE ITEMIZED LISTS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SHALL BE  
29 PROVIDED TO THE JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT  
30 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH  
31 YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STENNIS INSTITUTE SHALL COMPILE THE  
32 INFORMATION IN THOSE LISTS INTO ONE DOCUMENT, AND SHALL MAKE THE  
33 COMPILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE FOUNDATION BY DECEMBER 1 OF  
34 EACH YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

36 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Foundation  
37 for Early Childhood Development.

38 (2) (a) The purpose of the Mississippi Foundation for Early  
39 Childhood Development, a public-private partnership, is to  
40 identify cost-effective ways to deliver quality early care and  
41 education experiences and parent education for families whose



42 children are at risk of being unprepared for school. The  
43 foundation shall develop infrastructure supports and  
44 accountability measures to increase the quality of early care and  
45 education settings and must build community capacity for school  
46 readiness. The foundation will evaluate the resulting benefits  
47 and long-term savings to the Mississippi economy and the  
48 effectiveness of strategies for increasing children's readiness  
49 for school upon entering kindergarten.

50 (b) In addition to the duties prescribed in this  
51 section, the foundation shall require all agencies, departments,  
52 institutions and political subdivisions of the state that provide  
53 programs or services to children in this state to create an  
54 itemized list of the programs and services provided by that  
55 agency, department, institution or political subdivision. The  
56 itemized list shall provide the following information:

57 (i) A description of the programs and services,  
58 categorized by program, target population and geographical region;

59 (ii) An itemized resource map of all federal and state  
60 funds received for the programs and services;

61 (iii) The performance measures used to assess the  
62 expenditure of those funds, the intended outcomes of the programs  
63 and services and the actual outcomes of the programs and services;

64 (iv) Any costs associated with operating the programs  
65 and services; and

66 (v) The number of children served by the programs and  
67 services.

68 The agencies, departments, institutions and political  
69 subdivisions shall provide the itemized lists of the programs and  
70 services required by this subsection to the John C. Stennis  
71 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University not later  
72 than September 1 of each year, and the Stennis Institute of  
73 Government shall compile the information in those lists into one  
74 (1) document, organized both by programs and services and by the



75 agencies, departments, institutions and political subdivisions  
76 providing the programs and services. The Stennis Institute shall  
77 make the compiled information available to the foundation by  
78 December 1 of each year.

79 (3) The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood  
80 Development shall seek tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3)  
81 of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation shall be governed by  
82 a board comprised of the following seven (7) members:

83 (a) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the  
84 House of Representatives, one (1) of whom shall be a  
85 representative from the Department of Education and one (1) of  
86 whom shall be from the private sector;

87 (b) Two (2) members appointed by the Lieutenant  
88 Governor of the Senate, one (1) of whom shall be the President of  
89 the Mississippi Head Start Association and one (1) of whom shall  
90 be from the private sector; and

91 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, two  
92 (2) of whom shall be from the industry of private early childhood  
93 development and one (1) of whom shall be from the private sector.

94 All appointments of the board shall be for a period of four  
95 (4) years. Vacancies shall be filled for the length of an  
96 unexpired term only. The board shall elect from its membership a  
97 chairperson.

98 (4) The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood  
99 Development shall match dollars appropriated from the state with  
100 nonpublic dollars raised by the board. The board shall award  
101 grants for the following:

102 (a) Pilot projects that demonstrate successful  
103 approaches to the delivery of early childhood services and parent  
104 education to low-income families;

105 (b) Scholarships to low-income families to access early  
106 childhood parent education and high-quality early learning  
107 programs for their children; and



108 (c) The development of strategies to improve the  
109 quality of early care and education through early learning  
110 standards and assessment, a quality rating system, program  
111 improvement grants and professional development grants.

112 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature shall appropriate annually to the  
113 State Department of Education those state funds that may be  
114 necessary to support the Mississippi Foundation for Early  
115 Childhood Development in carrying out its functions under this  
116 act.

117 **SECTION 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of funding, the  
118 State Superintendent of Public Education shall make a grant to the  
119 Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood Development to  
120 implement an early childhood development grant program for  
121 low-income and other challenged families. The goals of the grant  
122 program shall be to increase the effectiveness and expand the  
123 capacity of public and nonpublic early childhood development  
124 programs, which may include child care programs, and to lead to  
125 improved early childhood parent education and children's  
126 kindergarten readiness. The grant program may not supplant  
127 existing early childhood development programs or child care funds.  
128 The grant program must include the following components:

129 (a) Grants to existing early childhood development  
130 program providers that provide parent education programs and to  
131 qualified providers proposing to implement pilot programs for this  
132 same purpose;

133 (b) Grants to enable low-income families to participate  
134 in these programs;

135 (c) Grants to improve overall programmatic quality; and

136 (d) An evaluation of the programmatic and financial  
137 efficacy of all these programs, which may be performed using  
138 measures of services, staffing and management systems which:  
139 provide consistent information about system performance; show



140 trends; confirm successes; and identify potential problems in  
141 early childhood development programs.

142 (2) In order to implement the requirements of subsection (1)  
143 of this section, subject to the availability of funding  
144 appropriated for such purposes, the State Superintendent of Public  
145 Education shall make a grant to a private nonprofit, 501(c)(3)  
146 organization. The private nonprofit organization must be governed  
147 by a board of directors composed of members from the public and  
148 private sectors. The private sector members must compose a simple  
149 majority of the board membership. The public sector members must  
150 be state and local government officials, kindergarten through  
151 Grade 12 or postsecondary educators, and early childhood providers  
152 appointed by the Governor. Membership on the board of directors  
153 by a state agency official constitutes work duties for the  
154 official and does not create a conflict of interest under Section  
155 25-4-105. The board of directors shall appoint an executive  
156 director and shall seek advice from geographically and ethnically  
157 diverse parents of young children and representatives of early  
158 childhood development providers, kindergarten through Grade 12 and  
159 postsecondary educators, public libraries and the business sector.  
160 The board of directors is subject to the Open Meetings Law  
161 (Chapter 41, Title 25, Mississippi Code of 1972). All other terms  
162 and conditions under which board members serve and operate must be  
163 described in the articles and bylaws of the organization.

164 (3) In addition to the duties prescribed under subsection  
165 (1) of this section, the Mississippi Foundation for Early  
166 Childhood Development shall adopt a quality improvement and rating  
167 system for the purpose of evaluating a program's effectiveness.  
168 The quality improvement and rating system must serve in performing  
169 the following functions:

170 (a) Providing consumer information to parents on child  
171 care and early education program quality and ratings;



172           (b) Setting indicators to identify quality in care and  
173 early education settings, including licensed family child care  
174 centers, tribal providers and programs, Head Start and school-age  
175 programs, and identifying quality programs through ratings and  
176 ongoing monitoring of programs;

177           (c) Providing funds for provider improvement grants and  
178 quality achievement grants;

179           (d) Requiring participating providers to incorporate  
180 the state's early learning standards in their curriculum  
181 activities and developing appropriate child assessments aligned  
182 with the kindergarten readiness assessment;

183           (e) Providing accountability for the quality  
184 improvement and rating system's effectiveness in improving child  
185 outcomes and kindergarten readiness; and

186           (f) Aligning current and new state investments to  
187 improve the quality of child care with the quality improvement and  
188 rating system framework, by providing accountability and informed  
189 parent choice. The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood  
190 Development shall report to the Legislature before January 15,  
191 2013, on the progress being made under this paragraph.

192           (4) In addition to other duties prescribed in this act, the  
193 Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood Development shall make  
194 available to the public the results of the quality improvement and  
195 the rating system that is conducted, as required in subsection (3)  
196 of this section, for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness  
197 of a program. The board shall post the results of the rating  
198 system each time an assessment is completed, and the postings  
199 shall be made available to the public on the following state Web  
200 sites: the Mississippi Department of Education, the Board of  
201 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi  
202 Division of Medicaid, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
203 and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

204           (5) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2015.



205           **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
206 and after July 1, 2011.

