

By: Representatives Brown, Gardner, Clarke,  
Scott, Clark

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 608

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE LONGITUDINAL  
2 DATA SYSTEM (SLDS) TO ESTABLISH A MULTIAGENCY DATABASE TO TRACK  
3 EDUCATION AND STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE WORKFORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR  
4 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH THE STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM;  
5 TO ESTABLISH A STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM GOVERNING BOARD AND  
6 PROVIDE FOR ITS COMPOSITION; TO PRESCRIBE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF  
7 THE BOARD; TO REQUIRE THAT THE DATA PROVIDED TO THE STATE  
8 LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL  
9 APPLICABLE LAWS GOVERNING THE PROTECTION AND SHARING OF DATA; AND  
10 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1. State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS);**

13 **establishment.** (1) To improve quality of life, education and  
14 employment opportunities for all citizens, the appropriate  
15 agencies of the State of Mississippi listed in subsection (2) of  
16 this section shall develop and maintain a State Longitudinal Data  
17 System (SLDS). The system shall allow stakeholders and  
18 policymakers to access data on state residents from birth to the  
19 workforce to drive accountability and investment decisions. The  
20 system shall include data from multiple state agencies and  
21 entities. The system shall provide decision makers a tool to  
22 develop policies to support objectives, including, but not limited  
23 to:

24 (a) Enabling Mississippians to secure and retain  
25 employment and receive better pay after completing training or  
26 postsecondary degrees;

27 (b) Enabling Mississippi to meet the education and job  
28 skill demands of business and industry;



29 (c) Developing an early warning system, which allows  
30 the state to intervene early, improving the graduation rates in  
31 high school and college;

32 (d) Identifying teachers, teaching methods and programs  
33 that lead to positive student outcomes; and

34 (e) Encouraging the sharing of electronic data across  
35 educational and other entities.

36 (2) Individual state agencies and state entities shall send  
37 data from their internal system to the Statewide Longitudinal Data  
38 System. The initial agencies and entities that shall provide data  
39 to the SLDS under the provisions developed by the SLDS Governing  
40 Board established in Section 2 of this act are as follows:

41 (a) The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE);

42 (b) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges  
43 (SBCJC);

44 (c) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
45 Higher Learning (IHL);

46 (d) The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB);

47 (e) The Mississippi Department of Employment Security  
48 (MDES);

49 (f) The Mississippi Department of Human Services  
50 (MDHS); and

51 (g) The State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC).

52 Any agencies or entities added to SLDS shall provide a  
53 representative to the SLDS Governing Board and be governed in the  
54 same manner as the initial agencies and entities.

55 (3) The system shall be based on an existing system  
56 currently housed, developed and maintained by the National  
57 Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) at  
58 Mississippi State University. The initial agencies participating  
59 in the SLDS Governing Board and NSPARC have worked collaboratively  
60 to secure funding through the United States Department of  
61 Education to expand and enhance the capacity of the state's



62 existing technology infrastructure for the purposes of developing  
63 the SLDS. The State Data Center, operated by the Mississippi  
64 Department of Information Technology Services (ITS), shall provide  
65 application hosting services for the SLDS until such time the SLDS  
66 Governing Board approves another entity to perform those services.

67 **SECTION 2. Governance.** (1) The Statewide Longitudinal Data  
68 System shall be governed by a SLDS Governing Board, composed of a  
69 representative from each agency or entity providing data to the  
70 system. Each agency or entity shall have the authority to appoint  
71 its representative to the SLDS Governing Board. Beginning July 1,  
72 2015, the State Workforce Investment Board chairman shall also  
73 serve as Chairman of the SLDS Governing Board. At the expiration  
74 of the State Workforce Investment Board chairman's term as  
75 chairman, and every two (2) years thereafter, the SLDS Governing  
76 Board shall elect a chairman from among its members who shall  
77 serve a two-year term.

78 (2) The SLDS Governing Board shall develop and promulgate  
79 all rules and regulations governing the activities of the SLDS in  
80 accordance with applicable state and federal laws. The board is  
81 authorized to contract with a third party to manage and maintain  
82 the system and to insure the policies and procedures developed by  
83 the board are enforced.

84 (3) The SLDS Governing Board shall be responsible for, but  
85 not limited to, the following objectives:

86 (a) Identifying critical research and policy questions  
87 that need to be addressed by education (P-20) and workforce  
88 programs;

89 (b) Identifying reports and other information that  
90 should be available to education and workforce entities and other  
91 public stakeholders;

92 (c) Developing a funding mechanism for sustaining the  
93 system after it is developed;



94 (d) Defining and maintaining standards for privacy,  
95 confidentiality and security of data; and

96 (e) Performing other advisory functions that are  
97 necessary for the successful continuation and management of the  
98 longitudinal data system.

99 (4) Nothing in this act shall prevent an individual agency  
100 or entity from maintaining control of their agency's individual  
101 data.

102 (5) All data provided to the SLDS shall be provided in  
103 accordance with all local, state and federal laws governing the  
104 protection and sharing of such data.

105 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
106 and after July 1, 2013.

