

By: Representatives Scott, Burnett, Espy,
Gibbs, Harrison, Huddleston (30th),
Middleton, Thomas

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 962
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MOTIVATING PARENTS AND CHILDREN
2 (M.P.A.C.) PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
3 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT PROVIDE
4 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SERVICES TO FAMILIES OF COMPULSORY-SCHOOL-AGE
5 CHILDREN; TO SET FORTH THE PURPOSES OF THE M.P.A.C. PILOT PROGRAM;
6 TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND
7 IMPLEMENT THE M.P.A.C. PILOT PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE BASIC
8 COMPONENTS OF SERVICES TO BE OFFERED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER THE
9 M.P.A.C. PILOT PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE AN APPLICATION AND SELECTION
10 PROCEDURE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE M.P.A.C. PILOT
11 PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-11-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
12 REQUIRE PARENTS TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND OTHER FUNCTIONS OF
13 SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE M.P.A.C. PILOT PROGRAM; TO
14 AMEND SECTION 63-1-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
15 CHILDREN UNDER 18 RESIDING IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN
16 THE M.P.A.C. PILOT PROGRAM WHO WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL MAY HAVE THEIR
17 DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED; TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-46, MISSISSIPPI
18 CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT SUCH MINORS FROM LICENSE REINSTATEMENT
19 FEES; TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
20 CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
21 PURPOSES.

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

23 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature finds that:

24 (a) Students who exhibit serious behavior problems in
25 school become juvenile and adult offenders;

26 (b) A major contributing factor to this problem is a
27 lack of positive parental involvement with both their children and
28 school personnel;

29 (c) Growing numbers of children live in conditions that
30 place them at risk of school failure;

31 (d) The provision of school and support services to
32 these children and their families by public and nonprofit agencies
33 is fragmented and does not prepare these children to learn
34 effectively and have a successful school experience;



35 (e) The lack of collaboration among schools, families,
36 local agencies and other groups involved in family support and
37 youth development activities results in the inefficient and
38 ineffective use of resources to meet the needs of these children;

39 (f) Schools are dedicating an increasing amount of
40 their time and resources to responding to disruptive and violent
41 behavior rather than fulfilling their mission to challenge with
42 high expectations each child to learn, to achieve and to fulfill
43 his or her potential;

44 (g) The relationships between school failure,
45 disruptive and violent behavior in schools, unemployment and
46 criminal behavior are clear;

47 (h) Responding to the needs of students who are at-risk
48 of school failure and providing a safe and secure learning
49 environment are cost-effective measures because they enable the
50 state to substitute preventive measures for expensive and
51 reactionary crisis intervention through use of co-location of
52 services and repositioning of staff; and

53 (i) Differing local needs and local resources
54 necessitate the development of locally generated, community-based
55 plans that coordinate and leverage existing resources, not the
56 imposition of uniform and inflexible state-mandated plans.

57 (2) Subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds by the
58 Legislature for that purpose, there is established within the
59 State Department of Education the Motivating Parents and Children
60 (M.P.A.C.) pilot program. The purposes of the program are:

61 (a) To provide school districts innovative local
62 programs that target juvenile crime by coordinating school and
63 support services to children-at-risk and their families with
64 required parental involvement;

65 (b) To enhance educational attainment through
66 coordinated services to respond to the needs of students who are



67 at risk of school failure and at risk of participation in juvenile
68 crime; and

69 (c) To provide a safe and secure learning environment.

70 (3) Motivating Parents and Children (M.P.A.C.) is a proposed
71 pilot program designed for a collaborative effort between the
72 Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Department
73 of Health, Employment Security Commission, Division of Medicaid
74 and the Financial Literacy Foundation to address failing schools,
75 dysfunctional families and poverty stricken communities. Through
76 collaboration and cooperation these entities have agreed to bring
77 their particular expertise to the table to address failing
78 schools. The pilot program will consist of the six (6) school
79 districts which are under conservatorship as well as two (2) other
80 districts that are at risk (Laurel and Shaw).

81 (4) The State Department of Education shall develop policies
82 and procedures to administer the Motivating Parents and Children
83 (M.P.A.C.) pilot programs.

84 **SECTION 2.** A public school district may allow a home school
85 student that resides in the public school district to participate
86 in extracurricular activities.

87 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
88 and after July 1, 2011.

