

By: Representative Brown

To: Education; Public Health
and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1177
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AND PARAPROFESSIONAL
2 EDUCATION AND MENTAL HEALTH STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND MAKE
3 ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE REGULAR SESSION OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN SHAPING
5 PUBLIC POLICY TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES AND EDUCATIONAL
6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH SERIOUS EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL
7 DISORDERS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; TO SET
8 FORTH THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO AMEND SECTION 1, CHAPTER
9 484, LAWS OF 2010, TO REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE TO
10 STUDY STRATEGIES FOR SOLVING THE CURRENT TEACHER SHORTAGE IN
11 MISSISSIPPI AND TO EXTEND THE DATE OF ITS DISSOLUTION UNTIL THE
12 FILING OF ITS LEGISLATIVE REPORT IN 2013; TO SET FORTH THE DUTIES
13 OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Joint Legislative and
16 Paraprofessional Education and Mental Health Study Committee to
17 study and make annual recommendations to the Mississippi
18 Legislature and to assist in shaping public policy to improve
19 student outcomes and educational opportunities for students with
20 serious emotional, behavioral disorders in regular and special
21 education in the State of Mississippi. The study group shall be
22 composed of the following members:

23 (a) One (1) person who is a member of the governing
24 body of a school district, to be appointed by the State
25 Superintendent of Public Education;

26 (b) One (1) person who is a representative of the State
27 Department of Education, to be appointed by the State
28 Superintendent of Public Education (no designee);

29 (c) One (1) person who is the Director of Special
30 Education services in a school district, to be appointed
31 by the State Superintendent of Public Education;



32 (d) One (1) person who is a representative of the State
33 Department of Mental Health, to be appointed by the executive
34 director of the department;

35 (e) One (1) regular education teacher to be appointed
36 by the State Superintendent of Public Education;

37 (f) One (1) special education teacher to be appointed
38 by the State Superintendent of Public Education;

39 (g) The Executive Director of Mississippi Families as
40 Allies for Children's Mental Health;

41 (h) One (1) person each who is a representative of
42 Parent and Training Institute, Mississippi Disability Rights,
43 Southern Echo, Mississippi Center for Justice and National
44 Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), to be appointed by the
45 executive directors of each respective organization;

46 (i) One (1) person who is a representative of the
47 Department of Rehabilitation Services appointed by the
48 executive director of the department;

49 (j) One (1) person who is a representative of the
50 Department of Human Services appointed by the executive director
51 of the department;

52 (k) One (1) person who is a representative of a local
53 school district Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)
54 model to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public
55 Education;

56 (l) One (1) person who is an employee-representative of
57 the Mississippi Association of Community Mental Health Centers to
58 be appointed by the Governor;

59 (m) One (1) person who is a nonemployee representative
60 of the Mississippi Association of Community Mental Health Centers
61 to be appointed by the Governor;

62 (n) The Chairman of the House Public Health and Human



63 Services Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Public Health
64 and Welfare Committee, who will be cochairmen of the joint study
65 committee; and

66 (o) The Chairmen of the House and Senate Education
67 Committees, who will be cochairmen of the joint study committee.

68 (2) Members of the study group shall work together to insure
69 that family members are representative of the regions of the state
70 and the various types of relevant issues in both special education
71 and regular education specific issues.

72 (3) The study committee is tasked with the following
73 responsibilities:

74 (a) Collecting and analyzing data on out-of-school
75 suspensions;

76 (b) Collecting and analyzing data on alternative school
77 placement;

78 (c) Collecting and analyzing data on the use of
79 corporal punishment;

80 (d) Reviewing the use of Medicaid payments for mental
81 health services in schools;

82 (e) Establishing a clear defined process for requesting
83 mental health services;

84 (f) Reviewing mental health training provided for
85 school personnel, beyond classroom management, interventions and
86 preventions;

87 (g) Promoting professional development training on
88 disabilities and specific disorders; and

89 (h) Evaluating why dropout rates for children and youth
90 with mental health issues are higher than the average rate.

91 (4) Appointments to the task force shall be made within
92 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. The task
93 force shall hold its first meeting not later than August 15, 2011,
94 with the date, time and location of the meeting to be designated
95 by the Executive Director of the Department of Mental Health.



96 (5) Members of the task force shall serve without
97 compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for
98 necessary expense in attending to the actual business of the task
99 force from any available funds, as provided by law. Legislative
100 members shall be reimbursed from the contingent expense fund of
101 their respective house, but only with the specific approval of the
102 Rules Committee of the respective house. The task force, by
103 approval of a majority of its membership, may accept funds that
104 may be donated or provided in the form of grants from public or
105 private sources.

106 (6) Any department, agency or court of this state, at the
107 request of the chairman of the task force, shall provide staff and
108 other support necessary for the task force to perform its duties.

109 (7) The study committee shall report to the Governor and the
110 Legislature by not later than January 1, 2013, at which time the
111 study committee shall be dissolved.

112 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of Chapter 484, Laws of 2010, is
113 amended as follows:

114 Section 1. (1) The Task Force to Study Strategies for
115 Solving the Current Teacher Shortage in Mississippi is created to
116 study and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature
117 regarding teacher attrition, retention and growth in our state.
118 The task force shall study and make recommendations on the
119 following key areas:

- 120 (a) Teacher salaries;
- 121 (b) Future educators;
- 122 (c) Working conditions of educators;
- 123 (d) Relevant professional development for educators;
- 124 (e) Adequate and equitable resources and support for
125 educators;
- 126 (f) Safety and respect in the schools;
- 127 (g) Parental and community involvement in the schools;



128 (h) The teacher salary scale under the Mississippi
129 Adequate Education Program;
130 (i) Step increases and annual increments under the
131 teacher salary scale;
132 (j) Merit pay for teachers;
133 (k) Teacher pay for failing schools;
134 (l) Local supplements to teacher salaries;
135 (m) Nonadequate education program funded teachers; and
136 (n) Adequate and equitable resources and support for
137 teacher salaries.

138 (2) Members of the task force shall be composed of the
139 following:

- 140 (a) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
141 his designee;
142 (b) One (1) person appointed by the Governor;
143 (c) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Education
144 Committees;
145 (d) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Universities
146 and Colleges Committees;
147 (e) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations
148 Committees;
149 (f) Three (3) classroom teachers appointed by the State
150 Board of Education, one (1) to be an elementary teacher, one (1)
151 to be a middle school teacher and one (1) to be a high school
152 teacher;
153 (g) One (1) assistant teacher appointed by the
154 Mississippi Association of Educators;
155 (h) One (1) principal appointed by the State Board of
156 Education;
157 (i) One (1) local school superintendent appointed by
158 the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents; * * *
159 (j) Two (2) deans of the College of Education of a



160 Mississippi public or private university appointed by the Board of
161 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

162 (k) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his
163 designee; and

164 (l) The Executive Director of the State Board for
165 Community and Junior Colleges, or his designee.

166 Appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty
167 (30) days after the effective date of this act. The task force
168 shall hold its first meeting not later than August 1, 2011, with
169 the date, time and location of the meeting to be designated by the
170 State Superintendent of Education. At the first meeting the task
171 force shall elect from among its membership a chairman, vice
172 chairman and any other officers determined to be necessary, who
173 shall organize the task force for business and determine the date
174 and locations of subsequent meetings.

175 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation
176 for their services, but may be reimbursed for necessary expense in
177 attending to the actual business of the task force from any
178 available funds, as provided by law. Legislative members shall be
179 reimbursed from the contingent expense fund of their respective
180 house, but only with the specific approval of the Rules Committee
181 of the respective house. The task force, by approval of a
182 majority of its membership, may accept funds that may be donated
183 or provided in the form of grants from public or private sources.

184 (3) Any department, agency or court of this state, at the
185 request of the chairman of the task force, shall provide staff and
186 other support necessary for the task force to perform its duties.

187 (4) Upon presentation of its report to the Governor and the
188 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature, the task force shall be
189 dissolved.

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

